NATION

HC order to shut Youtube channel unwarranted: SC

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BUSINESS

Market draws back from lifetime highs on profit taking

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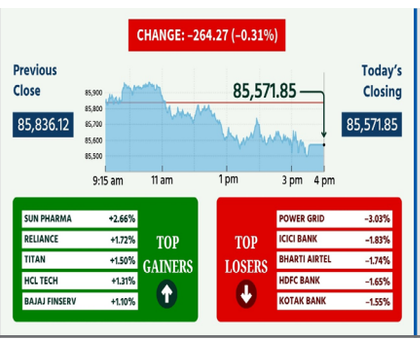

SPORTS

Dwayne Bravo retires from all forms of cricket

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SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

ساڈھ روزنامہ بنگلور

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PHOTO: PTI

Ishiba elected as Japan Prime Minister

TOKYO, 27 SEPT

Japan's ruling party on Friday picked former defence minister Shigeru Ishiba as leader, setting him up to become prime minister next week. The party leadership win is a ticket to the top job because the Liberal Democratic Party's ruling coalition currently controls the parliament. Considered a defence policy expert, Ishiba has proposed an Asian version of the NATO military alliance and a more equal Japan-US security alliance. Ishiba is a supporter of Taiwan's democracy. He calls for an establishment of a disaster management agency in one of the world's most disaster-prone countries. *—PTI*

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PHOTO: LINKEDIN

Zomato co-founder Akriti Chopra resigns

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

Online food ordering and delivery platform Zomato on Friday said its co-founder and Chief People Officer Akriti Chopra have resigned to pursue other interests. Designated as senior management personnel, Chopra has tendered her resignation, with effect from 27 September, 2024, Zomato said in a regulatory filing. She has been with the company for 13 years and played a key role in setting up and scaling Zomato's legal and finance teams in her previous role as CFO. Before joining Zomato, she worked with PwC for three years in the tax and regulatory practice. In January last year, another Zomato co-founder and its then chief technology officer Gunjan Patidar resigned after over a decade stint in the company. Before that in November 2022, another co-founder Mohit Gupta had resigned. Gupta was elevated to co-founder level in 2020 from the position of CEO of its food delivery business. *—PTI*

Lokayukta registers FIR against CM in MUDA case

CM is 1st accused followed by his wife and brother-in-law

BENGALURU/MYSURU, 27 SEPT

Lokayukta police on Friday registered a First Information Report (FIR) against Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and others in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment case, two days after the court order.

While Siddaramaiah is accused number one (A1) in the case, his wife BM Parvathi (A2), brother-in-law Mallikarjuna Swamy (A3), Devaraju (A4) -- from whom Mallikarjuna Swamy purchased land and gifted it to Parvathi -- and others are named in the FIR registered by Lokayukta SP TJ Udesh in Mysuru.

A Special Court in Bengaluru on Wednesday ordered a Lokayukta police probe against Siddaramaiah in the case, setting the stage for filing an FIR against him.

The order of the Special Court Judge, Santhosh Gajanan Bhat, came a day after the High Court upheld the sanction granted by the Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot to conduct an investigation against Siddaramaiah on the allegations of illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife by the MUDA. The Special Court exclusively to deal with criminal cases related to former and elected MPs/MLAs issued the order directing the Lokayukta police in Mysuru to initiate an investigation on the complaint filed by RTI activist Snehamayi Krishna.

"Acting under Sec.156(3) of Code of Criminal Procedure, the jurisdictional police ie., Superintendent of Police, Karnataka Lokayukta, Mysuru is hereby directed to register the case, investigate and to file a report as contemplated under Sec.173 of CrPC, within a period 3 months from today.." the court had said. He arrived in Mysuru on a three-day visit to a rousing welcome by supporters in a show of strength and support. The opposition BJP staged a protest demanding his resignation; many of the saffron party workers were whisked away by the police as they tried to march towards the venue of the meeting that he was attending.

—Salar News with Agencies

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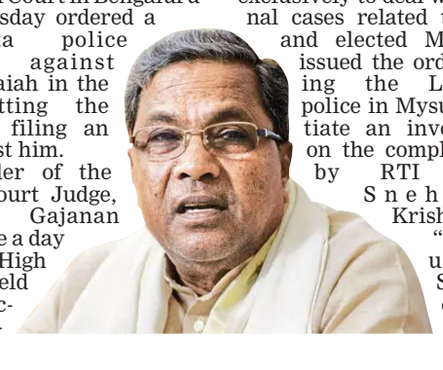

Kharge says Cong stands with CM

PHOTO: PTI

Congress President M Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday said that Congress party is standing with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and will support him as he faces a probe by Lokayukta police in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam. Rejecting BJP's demand for Siddaramaiah's resignation, he noted that "neither a chargesheet is filed, nor the Chief Minister is convicted. *—PTI*

I am being targeted, says Siddaramaiah

Mysuru, 27 Sept

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday claimed he was being targeted in MUDA scam as the Opposition is "scared" of him and said it's the first such "political case" against him. He reiterated that he won't resign following the court ordering a probe against him as he has done no wrong and asserted that he would fight the case legally. Accusing the Centre of misusing central CBI, ED and also the office of the Governor, he said there was a need for a national debate on Governors' "interference" in administration. *—PTI*

'ALL IN AIR'

SC raps air quality board over Delhi stubble burning

Meanwhile, SC urged for the preservation of remaining green lungs in Mumbai which are only witnessing a vertical growth PHOTO: PTI

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, 27 SEPT

The Supreme Court Friday rapped the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) over its failure to curb air pollution in Delhi due to crop residue burning in the neighbouring states and said it needs to be more active in its approach.

A bench of Justice Abha S Oka and Justice Augustine George Masih said CAQM needs to exercise its power under the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021.

The top court remarked, "It is all in the air, nothing has been shown regarding what has been done in the National Capital Region states."

The bench posted the matter for hearing on 3 October.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court urged for the preservation of the few remaining green lungs in cities like Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, which are only witnessing a vertical growth.

The observations were made by a bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice Manoj Misra during the hearing of an appeal filed by the City and Industrial Development Corporation Navi Mumbai against a Bombay High Court verdict. The land was earmarked for the sports complex in 2003 and in 2016, the planning authority allotted a portion of it to a private developer for residential and commercial purposes. The bench has now fixed the plea for further hearing on 30 September. *—PTI*

Lokayukta questions HDK in land de-notification case

BENGALURU, 27 SEPT

JD(S) leader and Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy on Friday appeared before the Lokayukta police for questioning in connection with a land denotification case.

"He was questioned in the Gangenahalli denotification case," a Lokayukta official said.

The ruling Congress in Karnataka last week asked the Lokayukta to expedite its probe against former Chief Ministers BS Yediyurappa and Kumaraswamy, also a former chief minister in connection with the alleged denotification of land here.

Ministers Krishna Byre Gowda, Dinesh Gundu Rao and Santhosh Lad held a joint press conference on 19 September and released documents regarding the denotification of 1.11 acres of land at Gangenahalli in Kasaba hobli of Bengaluru North.

Kumaraswamy said he has nothing to do with the case and he has never done anything that is illegal while in power and during his tenure as chief minister. Alleging that a 'benami' named Rajashekharaiah, "who has nothing to do with the said land (that was notified)", gave a petition when Kumaraswamy was the Chief Minister in 2007, seeking denotification of the land, which was acquired 30 years ago, Krishna Byre Gowda had last week alleged that Kumaraswamy had then asked officials to move the file in this regard. *—PTI*

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy at Lokayukta office after he was asked to appear before the officials on Friday PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD

EAM MEETS UN CHIEF, DISCUSSES CLIMATE ACTION

NEW YORK, 27 SEPT

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and UN General Assembly's new President Philemon Yang here separately. During the meeting, the talks focused on the Pact for the Future, reforming multilaterism, AI, climate action, and concerns in West Asia and Ukraine.

Jaishankar is in the US to attend the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly and met Guetteres and Yang on the sidelines of the high-level session on Thursday.

Meanwhile, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer joined the leaders of the US and France in backing India's bid for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to make it a more representative body that is not "paralysed by politics". *—PTI*

Jagan Mohan postpones Tirumala visit amid row

AMARAVATI, 27 SEPT

YSRCP Chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Friday said he has indefinitely postponed his planned trip to the Tirupati Lord Venkateshwara Temple, amid the growing demand by NDA allies in Andhra Pradesh to declare his faith before entering the shrine.

His much-hyped Tirumala tour was announced as part of the YSRCP's call for prayers in temples to atone for TDP supremo and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's 'sin' through his allegations on the quality of Tirupati laddus.

Hours before Jagan's tour, Naidu appealed that every visitor to deity Sri Venkateswara Swamy must follow the rules and refrain from hurting devotees' sentiments.

According to rules, foreigners and non-Hindus should declare their reverence for Lord Venkateswara to have a darshan of the presiding deity at the hill shrine.

Reacting to the issue, Naidu however asked Reddy if he was served any notice to not go to the shrine.

He further said there were reports that YSRCP was spreading information to mobilise people for Jagan's visit, forcing police to impose restrictions. *—PTI*

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YS Jagan Mohan Reddy PHOTO: PTI

META FINED $102M BY EU OVER SECURITY LAPSE

LONDON, 27 SEPT

Meta was punished Friday with a fine worth more than USD 100 million from the social media giant's European Union privacy regulator over a security lapse involving passwords for Facebook users. The Irish Data Protection Commission said it slapped the US tech company with the 91 million euro (USD 101.6 million) penalty following an investigation.

The investigation startedin 2019 after it was notified by Meta that some passwords had been inadvertently stored internally in plain text, which means they weren't encrypted and it was possible for employees to search for them. Deputy Commissioner Graham Doyle said it's "widely accepted" that user passwords should not be stored in plain text, "considering the risks of abuse." Meta said a security review found that a "subset" of Facebook users' passwords were "temporarily logged in a readable format." *—PTI*

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ODISHA SURROGATE PARENTS TO GET LEAVE

BHUBANESWAR, 27 SEPT

Odisha decided to grant maternity and paternity leaves to employees opting for surrogacy, an official notification said. According to the notification issued by the state Finance Department on Thursday night, female employees can avail of 180 days of leave while male staffers will be entitled to 15 days of paternity leave. This benefit has been extended to both surrogate and commissioning mothers and the commissioning father, it said.The state government's decision in this regard came after the Centre extended maternity and paternity leave benefits to its employees attaining parenthood by surrogacy. *—PTI*

K'taka approves projects worth ₹4,071cr investment

BENGALURU, 27 SEPT

State-Level Single Window Clearance Committee (SLSWCC) on Friday approved 88 projects worth Rs 4,071.11 crore investments in the State.

These projects are expected to generate employment for approximately 10,585 people across the State. The SLSWCC was chaired by Karnataka Minister for Large, Medium Industries, and Infrastructure Development MB Patil.

Among the notable approvals are proposals from Aratt One World Pvt. Ltd and Dairy Classic Ice Creams Private Limited, which plan to invest Rs 485 crore and Rs 285 crore respectively.

He noted that the committee approved 14 major large and medium projects with capital investments exceeding Rs 50 crore, amounting to Rs 2,031.76 crore and expected to create employment for around 3,302 people.

Additionally, 68 new projects with investments ranging from Rs 15 crore to Rs 50 crore were approved, from which Rs 1,355.07 crores will be capital investment and employment opportunities will be available to approximately 5,049 people. *—PTI*

ON ALERT

Kerala reports 2nd Mpox, 3rd in India; Centre issues advisory

PHOTO: WHO

Mpox symptoms last 2 to 4 weeks and may include:

- Fever
- Skin rash
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Headache
- Muscle aches and backaches
- Chills
- Tiredness

T'PURAM, 27 SEPT

The Kerala health department on Friday said another Mpox case was reported in the state and urged those who have symptoms to seek treatment.

The southern state had reported the country's first confirmed case of the new strain earlier this week.

A high-level evaluation meeting was held on Friday to evaluate the situation, the state health department said.

State Health Minister Veena George said the contact list of the patient has been prepared and the preventive measures have been taken.

The minister urged everyone who reached the state from abroad to approach the health department in case of any symptoms and seek treatment.

"Isolation facilities have been arranged in all the districts," the minister said in a statement.

On 23 September, the health department had announced plans to release revised guidelines for the prevention and treatment of Mpox.

Meanwhile, Union Health Ministry has released an advisory for all states and union territories.

It has provided a list of laboratories operationalised for testing. The advisory includes clinical management protocols, infection prevention and control practices, as well as a risk communication strategy.

The ministry has instructed the states to assess public health preparedness at health facilities, with reviews to be conducted by senior officials at both the state and district levels.

George had said that instructions were issued to take necessary action if the number of cases increases.

Official sources in New Delhi had earlier said that India had reported the first case of the Mpox strain in a patient from Kerala who tested positive.

They had said that the Clade 1b strain was detected in a 38-year-old man from Malappuram district who had recently returned from the United Arab Emirates.

—PTI/ANI

STAR SPOTTED

PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD

Actor and director Revathi visits stalls after the inauguration of 'Vastrabharana 2024', an exhibition and sale of handcrafted textiles and jewellery, at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath in Bengaluru on Friday

In show of unity, Kharge rallies behind CM

Cong President says neither chargesheet is filed nor is Siddaramaiah convicted in MUDA scam

BENGALURU, 27 SEPT

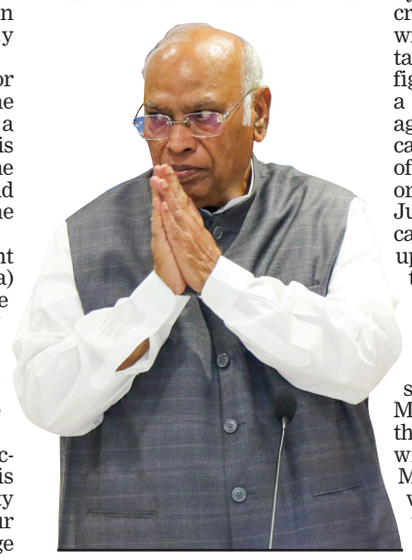
Congress President M Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday said the party is standing with Chief Minister Sid-daramaiah and will support him as he faces a probe by Lokayukta police in the Mysuru Urban Develop-ment Authority (MUDA) site allotment case.

Rejecting BJP's demand for Siddaramaiah's resignation, he noted that "neither a chargesheet is filed, nor he is convicted," and said, "let the law take its own course, and when a situation comes, the party will examine."

"When the Godhra incident happened, whether (Narendra) Modi ji had resigned (as the then Gujarat chief minister)? Several cases were also pending against him at that time, even against Union Home Min-ister Amit Shah," Kharge said.

He said: "Don't target a particular person to damage his image, through him the party will also be damaged. Your (BJP) interest is to damage Congress, not the individual. He may be here today or may not be, the party will continue. Just to destroy Congress and Congress party's base votes, they want to destroy, that is why they are doing this."

Let the law take its own course, and when a situation comes, the party will examine it at that time, he further said. "Now nothing is there, (but) every day I'm seeing that MUDA, MUDA. Crores of rupees (have been) swallowed by industrialists, Rs 16 lakh crore of their debt have been written off, and now you are taking one small issue and fighting." A court here ordered a Lokayukta police probe against Siddaramaiah in the case, setting the stage for filing of an FIR against him. The order of the Special Court Judge, Santhosh Gajanan Bhat, came a day after the High Court upheld the sanction granted by the Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot to conduct an investigation against Siddara-maiah on the allegations of illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife B Parvathi by MUDA. In the scam, it is alleged that sites were allotted to his wife in an upmarket area in Mysuru, which had higher value as compared to the location of her land which had been "acquired" . —*PTI*



"It is a move to stop vendetta politics. Everyone knows what HD Deve Gowda and Kumaraswamy had said about the CBI. BJP had called it 'Congress Bureau of Investigation'. I am not going to discuss the status of cases handed over to CBI in the past

DK Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

Cong is behaving like a professional thief and corrupt party. First to err and then go brazen about it, this is the attitude and approach of the Congress in Karnataka and other states where it is in power

Shehzad Poonawalla, BJP Spokesperson

The party in which the corrupt from all over the country get royal shelter wants to prosecute Siddaramaiah because it has a Cong government. It is pressuring the Governor. You jailed Delhi and Jharkhand CMs. What kind of mischief is this?

Sanjay Raut, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader

The CM is clear that he's open to investigation. And we have also set up an SIT. BJP is more than free to give any documents of any nature to them. Instead of talking to the media, let them give all the documents that they have to the investigative agencies

Priyank Kharge, IT Minister

This is not the first time that consent to CBI has been withdrawn. The Opposition and all the states have been saying that the central agencies are being misused... Whatever we have done is according to the law

Pramod Tiwari, Cong leader and Rajya Sabha MP

CM's supporters confront MUDA head

MYSURU, 27 SEPT

MUDA Chairman K Marigowda on Friday faced the wrath of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's supporters at the Mysuru Airport as he was mobbed by them. They accused him of precipitating the matters that led Siddaramaiah to face legal action.

Upon arriving to greet Siddaramaiah, Marigowda was quickly surrounded by agitated supporters, who prevented him from exiting his vehicle. Despite his attempts to calm the situation, Marigowda ultimately had to leave without engaging further. Meanwhile, BJP workers, led by Krishnaraja MLA TS Srivatsa were taken into preventive custody by Mysuru police as they attempted to disrupt a Karnataka Development Program meeting set to be chaired by Siddaramaiah at the Zilla Panchayat Hall. The police intervened after the BJP marched from their office in Chamaraja Mohalla, chanting slogans against Siddaramaiah. —*Salar News*

MUDA Chairman K Marigowda PHOTO: SCREENGRAB

BJP trying to topple govt: CM

MYSURU, 27 SEPT

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday alleged that BJP is using Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) the wants to destabilise Congress government in Karnataka.

The Chief Minister said the Opposition party failed in its attempts to do 'Operation Kamala' (luring Cong MLAs to topple government), they have never come to power in the state on their own, with the man-date of the people.

"This is for the first time a political case is being registered against me. This is a political case, please un-derline," Siddaramaiah told reporters here.

Questioning JD(S) leader and Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy, Siddaramaiah said: "He is on bail after FIR, why hasn't he resigned? He is a Minister in Narendra Modi's government." "Governors are nominated, they are not elected by the people. President and Governors are Constitutional heads at the national and state level respectively and they have to function accordingly. While we (government) are elected by the people, we head the administration. —*PTI*

BJP leader R Ashoka and others protested against CM Siddaramaiah at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Thursday PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD

Plea in HC seeks suo motu case against Zameer Khan

BENGALURU, 27 SEPT

A petition has been filed in High Court seeking suo motu contempt proceedings against Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan. The petition, submitted by advocate Girish Bharadwaj, arises from comments made by Khan following the court's recent dismissal of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's petition in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) case.

Khan, after the court dismissed Siddaramaiah's petition, had publicly stated that the decision was politically motivated. His remarks, which implied that the judiciary was influenced by political factors, have drawn sharp criticism.

Bharadwaj argued that Khan's comments were aimed at undermining the public's trust in the judiciary.

He contended that such remarks were a serious breach of the judiciary's independence and could potentially erode the faith people have in the legal system. If found guilty, Khan could face penalties, including imprisonment or a fine. —*Salar News*

Zameer Ahmed Khan PHOTO: FB

Kolar police arrests trio for hacking BNU website

KOLAR, 27 SEPT

Kolar police on Friday arrested three people accused of hacking the website of Bengaluru North University (BNU) and exploiting a technical loop-hole to commit fraud. The suspects allegedly accessed sensitive data of students who had failed their degree examinations and demanded large sums of money in ex-change for falsely assuring them that their results would be modified to grant them passing certificates. The investigation began after BNU Registrar Tippe Swamy filed a complaint regarding issues with re-setting login passwords for the university's website. During the inquiry, Central Crime Investigation (CEN) police discovered that the hackers had exploited a vulnerability in the website's security system to change the passwords. Using the stolen data, the hackers reached out to failed students, promising them the chance to "pass" their exams.—*Salar News*

State unveils two new AC deluxe buses for Mysuru

BENGALURU, 27 SEPT

Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC), as part of the World Tourism Day celebra-tion, launched two new AC deluxe buses on Friday to enhance the travel experience for tourists visiting Mysuru for the upcoming Dasara festival. The new buses will operate on the Mysuru circuit, offering extensive travel throughout the area, they said. These new AC deluxe buses will significantly improve the travel experience for visitors to Mysuru, partic-ularly during the vibrant Dasara festival, said KSTDC Chairman M Srinivas. "Our goal is to promote tourism while showcasing the rich cultural heritage of our region," he said.According to officials, a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah last month outlined a strategy to promote tourism and convey a message of peace for World Tourism Day.—*PTI*

Restore Wadiyars' royal status: Dr Manjunath to govt

MYSURU, 27 SEPT

Bengaluru Rural MP Dr CN Manjunath urged the State government to confer royal status upon the erst-while Wadiyar family of Mysuru. His remarks came during the centenary celebrations of the Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (MMCRI) and the memorial celebrations for Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, held at the platinum jubilee hall at JK Grounds. He said that many democratic countries, such as the United Kingdom, Sweden, Japan, and Denmark, continue to honour their monarchies and the respect they command. He lamented that current adminis-trators in India are not granting it due recognition to the historical significance of former royal kingdoms, which played vital roles during the pre-independence era. The MP also addressed the issue of healthcare funding, highlighting that the Union government currently allocates only 1.9 per cent of its GDP to public health. —*Salar News*

Docu leak: Raj Bhavan officials under SIT lens

BENGALURU, 27 SEPT

Lokayukta Special Investigation Team (SIT) has formally requested permission to interrogate officials at the Raj Bhavan following the alleged leak of a confidential.

IGP M Chandrashekar of the Lokayukta SIT sent a letter to DGP Alok Mohan.

The sources said the information of the confidential file of the Union Heavy Industries and Steel Minister HD Kumaraswamy sent to the Governor's office was leaked.

The alleged leak prompted Governor Thawarchand Gehlot to seek a report on 20 August.

Following the investigation, a report was submitted to the Governor's office that there was no infor-mation leak from the side of Lokayukta and the Special Investigation Team (SIT). The confidential file in question was submitted to the Raj Bhavan on 8 March.

According to the Prevention of Corruption Act, the Governor is mandated to address such files within a four-month period. This request for interrogation comes on the heels of a Karnataka Cabinet decision to cease direct information sharing with the Governor's office and to revoke the general consent previously granted to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to operate in the State.

State Law Minister H.K. Patil criticiSed the Governor's "intolerant manner" of communication. —*Salar News*

BEAUTY OF SCIENCE

Students enjoy interactive screens of the newly inaugurated 'State of the Art Science Bus' at St Joseph School grounds in Bengaluru on Friday PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD

Man on the run after killing his wife 27 yrs ago arrested

TUMAKURU, 27 SEPT

A 70-year-old man was arrested for allegedly setting his wife on fire 27 years ago, police said on Friday.

Ningappa had been absconding since 1997 after he was charged in the incident in Nonavinakere police station limits, they said.

According to police, Nanjappa set his wife ablaze by pouring kerosene on her over domestic issues. She succumbed to injuries in hospital.

He was arrested three days ago when he happened to visit his village.

"It was a long pending case and now we caught him back. He came back to his village and his son started contacting him and through that connection, we caught him. It was a case of domestic violence. While she was admitted in hospital, the woman had given a dying declaration saying her husband had beaten her and poured kerosene on her," Tumakuru Superintendent of Police Ashok KV told PTI.

"A dying declaration is undeniable and no one can protect the accused in such cases. Initially, it was a case of attempt to murder but after she succumbed to injuries, it was converted into a case of murder," he said. —*PTI*

Mahalakshmi suspect travelled 1,500km on bike after murder

BENGALURU, 27 SEPT

The man suspected of murdering a woman whose chopped-up body was found inside a fridge at her home in Bengaluru flat allegedly travelled 1,550km from Bengaluru to Odisha in a day after the murder.

City Police Commissioner B Dayananda on Friday revealed that Mukti Ranjan Ray, the suspect in the Mahalaksmi murder case, travelled on his motorcycle, passing through Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal before reaching his hometown, Bonipur in Odisha.

The body of Mahalakshmi, 29, was found chopped into 59 pieces in a refrigerator in her residence on 21 September in Malleshwaram.

Ray was found hanging from a tree in his village on Wednesday.

Dayananda suggested that the crime might have been related to a marriage issue, though the exact mo-tive has yet to be established.

He said, "A suicide note was discovered at the scene of Ray's suicide."

"Before leaving Bengaluru, Ray visited his brother in Hebbagodi, confessing the murder and instructing him to vacate their shared accommodation without informing anyone. After reaching his village, he reportedly admitted the crime to his mother before taking his own life after a final meeting with his par-ents," he said. Dayananada said that Mahalakshmi was known for her temper, and both she and Ray had filed com-plaints of physical assaults in the past.

He said, "The victim's husband, Hemanth, had also filed a case with Nelamangala police, accusing her of biting him during an argument and demanding money." The handwritten suicide note left behind in Odia said, "I did it. I killed her. I was fed up with her. Her constant fights and demands for money were frustrating". He claimed that he had spent Rs 7 to 8 lakh on her and still she continued to demand the money from him. —*Salar News*

3.5L JOBS BY 2029

With new GCC policy, State eyes $50B earnings

BENGALURU, 27 SEPT

The State government on Friday launched a draft Global Capacity Centres (GCC) policy with the aim to generate USD 50 billion economic output and attract 500 new GCCs by 2029, creating 3.5 lakh jobs.

With this, the government has targeted to double global capability centres in the State to 1,000 by 2029, they said.

According to officials, a key highlight of the policy is the establishment of Global Innovation Districts, with three new state-of-the-art technology parks — one in Bengaluru and two in "Beyond Bengaluru" clus-ters.

These parks will feature cutting-edge infrastructure to foster collaboration between startups, tech lead-ers, and academia. Anchor investors in these districts will receive special incentives, with mega projects eligible for customised packages, they said.

"To support AI research, the government will establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for AI in Bengaluru, operating through a hub-and-spoke model across academic institutions. An AI Skilling Council with indus-try participation will also be launched, with the government funding curriculum development," an official statement said.

Speaking at the event, Information Technology and Biotechnology Minister Priyank Kharge said: "Today, we proudly launch India's first dedicated policy for Global Capability Centres (GCCs), reaffirming Karna-taka's position as the top destination for innovation and business transformation. GCCs have evolved from back-office operations to becoming critical drivers of global strategic initiatives, R&D, and technolo-gy solutions." He emphasised that with a workforce of over 1.2 million and contributing USD 22.2 billion to the econo-my, GCCs have been a vital source of growth and employment for Karnataka. —*PTI*

IT Minister Priyank Kharge at the launch of GCC Policy 2024 -2029 at Hotel Taj West End in Bengaluru on Friday PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD

Ensure guarantees reach all: CM tells Mysuru officials

MYSURU, 27 SEPT

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah directed the Mysuru administration on Friday to ensure that the State's five guarantee schemes effectively reach their intended beneficiaries.

The government has allocated Rs 56,000 crore for these initiatives to bolster development across various sectors.

In the Karnataka Development Programme meeting held at Zilla Panchayat Hall, the Chief Minister ex-pressed dissatisfaction with the lack of an action plan for development works. He noted that six months into the fiscal year, little progress has been made. He cautioned officials that they would be held ac-countable if the allocated funds, particularly those related to election guarantees, remain unutilised. He said excuses such as Dasara will not be tolerated, urging the district administration to prioritise these projects and not delay their implementation due to the upcoming Dasara festival.

He directed Agriculture Department officials to timely compensation farmers impacted by recent natural calamities, including heavy rains. He called for the swift distribution of compensation not only for crop losses but also for the families of 31 distressed farmers who tragically committed suicide in Mysuru. —*Salar News*

Siddaramaiah PHOTO: PTI

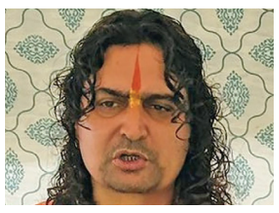


PHOTO: X/@BMacharyaBJP

BJP MLA holds 'purification ritual' for Cong turncoats

JAIPUR, 27 SEPT

BJP MLA Balmukund Acharya performed a "purification ceremony" at the municipal corporation here to convert Congress councillors who crossed over to his party into "Sanatanis" and cleanse the civic body of "corruption". Acharya, who is also the mahant of the Hathoj Dham temple, said 'Gangajal' and 'gaumutra' was sprinkled on officials and councillors of the Jaipur Municipal Corporation Heritage (JMCH) as part of the ceremony on Wednesday since they were had been forced to "indulge in corruption". Before Yadav formally assumed office at the JMCH office on Wednesday, the Hawa Mahal constituency MLA performed the "purification ceremony" for the councillors and municipal corporation officials. —PTI

Woman vandalises name plate outside Fadnavis' office

MUMBAI, 27 SEPT

A woman has vandalised the name plate of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis outside his office at `Mantralaya' in south Mumbai. The incident which took place on Thursday evening raised questions about the security at the State government's headquarters. Fadnavis, a former chief minister who currently handles the home portfolio, was not in his sixth-floor office at the time, officials said. The woman, a resident of central Mumbai, appeared to be "mentally disturbed", Deputy Commissioner of Police Pravin Munde told reporters. She had committed a similar act at the State BJP office earlier, police sources said. —PTI

Kukis shutdown call affects normal life in Manipur

IMPHAL, 27 SEPT

Normal life was affected in Churachandpur and Kangpokpi districts of Manipur on Friday following a shutdown call by Kuki Zo organisations to protest the state government's recent claim that 900 trained Kuki militants would attack villages in Imphal valley on 28 September. Officials said that educational institutions were closed in both Kuki majority districts. While business establishments were open in Churachandpur district, markets remained closed in Kangpokpi where movement of private vehicles was also "restricted", they said. The Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF), an organisation of the Kuki Zo community, earlier said a "total shutdown" will be observed on Saturday. —PTI

I was asked to get out of police station: Odisha CM

BHUBANESWAR, 27 SEPT

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Friday recounted an incident from the past where an inspector asked him to "get out" of a police station. Majhi made the remark after inaugurating the two-day Collectors' conference here at Lok Seva Bhawan. Reflecting on his experience that took place barely a month before he became the Chief Minister, Majhi said residents of Raisuan and Gopinathpur panchayats in Keonjhar constituency had staged a protest over drinking water crisis by blocking NH-20 on 2 May, when the simultaneous polls in Odisha were underway. Majhi assured them he would raise their concerns with the executive engineer of the department. However, when the then inspector in-Charge, Trinath Sethi, invited the protesters to the police station, he questioned Majhi's presence there, disregarding his role as an MLA. —PTI

Andhra forms 9-member SIT to probe Tirupati laddu row

Ayodhya, Mathura temples call for reform in distributing prasad

AMARAVATI, 27 SEPT

Andhra Pradesh government has appointed a nine-member special investigation team (SIT) to probe the alleged issue of adulterating Tirupati laddus (consecrated sweet) with animal fats.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu alleged during a recent NDA legislative party meeting that the erstwhile YSRCP government did not even spare Sri Venkateswara temple and used substandard ingredients and animal fats for making laddus.

The allegations sparked a massive controversy across the country, hurting the sentiments of crores of Hindus.

"The government of Andhra Pradesh, in accordance with its commitment to protecting the sanctity of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), have (has) considered it necessary to constitute an SIT for detailed and comprehensive investigation of the entire issue," said Chief Secretary Neerabh Kumar Prasad in a late night order on Thursday.

The SIT is headed by Guntur range Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sarvashresth Tripathi and other police officials.

However, YSRCP leaders said that probing the allegations by an agency reporting to the CM is insufficient and called for a Supreme Court-monitored probe.

AP CM N Chandrababu Naidu alleged YSRCP government used substandard ingredients for making laddus at Sri Venkateswara temple PHOTO: PTI

The controversy over the alleged adulteration of Tirupati Temple laddus has sparked reactions from Ayodhya, Prayagraj, and Mathura in Uttar Pradesh, with calls for reform in the preparation and distribution of 'prasad'.

In Ayodhya, the chief priest of the Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, Satyendra Das, demanded a "complete ban" on prasad prepared by external agencies.

In Mathura, the Dharma Raksha Sangh announced its decision to revert to the "ancient style" of 'prasadam' recipes, replacing commercially produced sweets with offerings made from fruits, flowers and other natural ingredients.

In 'Sangam city' Prayagraj, several temples, including Alop Shankari Devi, Bade Hanuman, and Mankameshwar, have banned devotees from bringing sweets and processed items as offerings. —PTI

Money laundering: ED raids Telangana Revenue Minister

HYDERABAD, 27 SEPT

Enforcement Directorate on Friday raided multiple premises linked to Telangana Revenue Minister P Srinivasa Reddy and some others as part of a money laundering case linked to an alleged smuggling racket of more than Rs 100 crore, official sources said.

About five premises in the state, including Hyderabad, are being searched. Some cash seizure was made by the agency but the location from where it was recovered was not known, they said.

A team of central security forces personnel accompanied the ED teams.

The money laundering case stems from a Customs/ Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) complaint against Reddy's son, Harsha Reddy, of the Raghav Group, who is alleged to have purchased seven watches worth Rs 5 crore.

The payments for these are linked to an alleged hawala and cryptocurrency racket worth Rs 100 crore and a man named A Naveen Kumar is under the scanner of the ED. Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, a Congress leader, is the minister for Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations in the Telangana government. According to Customs, Harsha Reddy has been allegedly identified as the buyer of the watches from Mubeen through an intermediary Alokam Naveen Kumar. —PTI

Names row: Cong scolds Vikramaditya

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

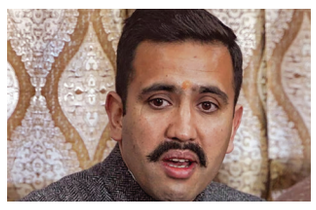
Congress brass on Friday chided Himachal Pradesh Minister Vikramaditya Singh over his remarks on mandatory display of names by street vendors and told him that no one was allowed to go against the party's policies and ideologies, sources said.

Amid a row over the comments, Congress General Secretary In-charge Organisation KC Venugopal had a meeting with Singh during which he was told that the party believed in Rahul Gandhi's mantra of fighting hatred with love, they said.

While Singh was told that he must adhere to the party's ideology and policies, he in turn informed the party brass that he was misquoted by the media.

Singh on Wednesday told reporters that it would be mandatory for street vendors, especially those selling food items, to display their identity cards at their shops.

The decision, he had said, was inspired by a similar directive announced by the Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government.



Vikramaditya Singh PHOTO: PTI

Distancing itself from Singh's remarks, the state government said in a statement that it had not taken any decision which made it mandatory for street vendors to display nameplates or other identification at their stalls. —PTI

KERALA CM REJECTS MLA ANVAR'S CLAIMS

T'PURAM/NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

A day after Left independent MLA PV Anvar made scathing allegations against the CPI(M), LDF and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, the Marxist veteran on Friday denied the accusations and termed them as an "attempt to malign and defame" the ruling dispensation in the state.

Vijayan, speaking to reporters in the national capital, said that Anvar, by his remarks, had made his intention clear that was keeping away from the Left front.

Anvar said that he never intentionally said he was leaving the LDF or its parliamentary party and any such statements by him were "slip of the tongue".

Anvar's clarification came shortly after Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan told reporters in Delhi that the MLA from Nilambur assembly constituency had made his intention clear that he was keeping away from the Left front.

"He made his intention clear by his statements. He clearly announced he was keeping away from the LDF and will not attend its parliamentary party meeting in the state assembly," the CM said. —PTI

Stalin meets PM, seeks funds & release of fishermen

CHENNAI/NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Friday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi and sought early release of pending funds to the state to implement various welfare schemes.

Funds for Chennai Metro Rail phase-2 implementation, release of funds under the Samagra Shiksha Scheme were among the key demands.

The state flagged its concern on National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 vis-à-vis the three-language formula, which is linked to the PM Shri schools scheme and opposed non-release of funds for Samagra Shiksha over difference of opinion on a clause related to implementation of PM Shri/NEP.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin with Prime Minister Narendra Modi with during a meeting, in New Delhi PHOTO: PTI

Getting released 145 fishers from Sri Lanka, finding a lasting solution to the issue of arrest of Indian fishermen by the island nation and persuading it against nationalising impounded boats and also levying hefty penalty on fishermen formed part of the state's representation to the Centre.

In a memorandum, Stalin sought the Prime Minister's intervention for early approval of the phase-2 of Chennai Metro Rail Project under 50:50 equity sharing basis between Central and State governments as was done for phase-1 and as recommended by the Public Investment Board (PIB). After meeting Modi, Stalin met Congress Parliamentary Party chief Sonia Gandhi, ahead of a public rally in Kancheepuram on September 28, where leaders from the opposition coalition will gather. Stalin described his meeting with Modi as cordial and speaking to reporters, he said his meeting with Sonia Gandhi was out of courtesy. CM arrived in the national capital on Thursday evening —PTI

BJP wins last vacant seat of MCD election

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

BJP won the last vacant seat of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's 18-member Standing Committee unopposed on Friday as the councillors of the ruling AAP and Congress boycotted the election.

Hitting out at BJP, Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal alleged that the saffron party has wrongly taken over the control of the civic body by stealing the mandate and termed the act as "hooliganism".

BJP's candidate Sunder Singh got all 115 votes of the party's councillors while the AAP's Nirmala Kumari did not receive any votes.

AAP may challenge the poll result in court, a party functionary said.

The standing committee is the highest decision-making body of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. Policy proposals involving an expenditure of Rs 5 crore and above require the standing committee's approval.

With the poll result, the BJP now has 10 members in the panel while the ruling AAP has only eight. This means the BJP will have more say in approving proposals in the panel. —PTI

POLL HEAT IS ON

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and MoS Rao Inderjit Singh at a public meeting ahead of Haryana elections, in Rewari district PHOTO: PTI

Shah asks Rahul if he knows full form of MSP

REWARI, 27 SEPT

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday trained his guns on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, asking if he knew the full form of MSP as he underlined that BJP government in Haryana was procuring 24 crops at the minimum support price.

Addressing a poll rally here, Shah also attacked the Congress on the issue of corruption, reservation and over Article 370, which he said, the Congress wants to bring it back. Shah claimed the BJP will return to power in Haryana for third time after the October 5 polls.

Slamming the Congress on farmers' issue, he said some NGO has told Rahul 'baba' that by saying MSP (minimum support price) he will get votes.

"Rahul baba, do you know full form of MSP? Which crop is of Kharif, which one is of Rabi, do you know," he asked.

Shah said the BJP government in Haryana is procuring 24 crops at MSP. "Let Congress leaders in Haryana tell which Congress-ruled state procures as many crops." —PTI

HARYANA CONG EXPELS 13 FOR CONTESTING POLLS

CHANDIGARH, 27 SEPT

The Haryana unit of Congress on Friday expelled thirteen party leaders for "anti-party activities" over their decision to contest as independent candidates against the party's official picks for the Assembly polls.

They were being expelled for six years with immediate effect to curb indiscipline in the party, Congress said.

Naresh Dhande (Guhla SC seat), Pardeep Gill (Jind), Sajjan Singh Dhull (Pundri), Sunita Battan (Pundri), Rajiv Mamuram Gondar (Nilokheri-SC), Dayal Singh Sirohi (Nilokheri-SC), Vijay Jain (Panipat Rural), Dilbag Sandil (Uchana Kalan), Ajit Phogat (Dadri), Abhijeet Singh (Bhiwani), Satbir Ratera (Bawani Khera-SC), Nitu Mann (Prithla) and Anita Dhull Badsikri (Kalayat) have been expelled as per a party order. —PTI

Congress' Aftab promises law against lynching over cows

A law against lynching in the name of cow protection and a judicial inquiry into the communal violence that rocked the district last year are among the promises being made by Congress' Aftab Ahmed, who is seeking re-election from Muslim-dominated Nuh constituency in Haryana. Ahmed says there were warnings ahead of communal violence and he had raised concerns with the administration beforehand but they "let it happen", not only causing loss of lives, property & faith. —PTI

CAMPAIGN RUN

National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah during a public meeting in support of Congress-NC alliance in J&K PHOTO: PTI

BADLAPUR ENCOUNTER

Find secluded spot to bury accused's body: HC

MUMBAI, 27 SEPT

Bombay High Court on Friday directed the police to identify a secluded spot for the burial of the body of Akshay Shinde, accused in the Badlapur sexual assault case, who was killed in a police shootout.

A division bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and MM Sathaye said once the spot is identified, the police shall inform Shinde's family members about it so that the burial can be done.

The HC rejected the contention of the prosecution that there is no custom of burying bodies in Shinde's community, calling it his parents' choice.

Shinde's father on Friday moved an urgent application seeking a burial spot for his son.

Shinde's father on Friday moved an urgent application seeking a burial spot for his son PHOTO: PTI

The father claimed that they were unable to find a burial ground for Shinde.

Public Prosecutor Hiten Venegaonkar told the court that all burial grounds in Badlapur and neighbouring areas have refused and opposed the burial of Shinde.

He added that the police will also ensure that no untoward incident occurs.

"The family will be informed about the same. But they need not make an event out of it. Let them do it silently. The family members will be taken (to burial spot) with police staff," Venegaonkar said.

The bench accepted this statement and posted the matter for hearing on September 30.

Venegaonkar further claimed that police enquired and found out that there was no such custom of burying in Shinde's community.

The bench, however, said the community will not decide what the parents want.

"Nobody has the right to decide. It is the parents' choice," HC said. — PTI

ULFA(I) suspect arrested for Assam bomb plot

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a key accused in a United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA-I) case related to the planting of IEDs across multiple places in Assam. Girish Barua, alias Gautam Baruah, was nabbed from the outskirts of Bengaluru, where he was hiding out, said the NIA in a press release. The case was registered by the NIA in September in connection with the planting of explosive devices across Assam by ULFA (I) as part of an armed protest against Independence Day celebrations in India. "The accused was part of the group of ULFA (I) operatives that had placed IEDs at locations in North Lakhimpur district in Assam at the behest of the top leadership of the outfit," said NIA. ***—ANI***

Accused in ₹300cr fraud found living in UP as seer, held

MATHURA, 27 SEPT

A man who allegedly defrauded thousands of people in Maharashtra of more than Rs 300 crore was nabbed after he was found living in the guise of a seer here to evade his arrest, police said Friday. Baban Vishwanath Shinde was held near the Krishna Balaram Temple in Vrindavan in a joint operation by the Vrindavan and Beed district police, they said. According to police officers here, Shinde was wanted in connection with multiple FIRs of fraud totalling around Rs 300 crore. Deputy Superintendent of Police Sandip Kumar Singh said Shinde, had been evading capture by hiding in Delhi, Assam, Nepal and multiple districts of Uttar Pradesh, posing as a seer. The arrest was made late Tuesday night and Shinde was presented in court. ***—PTI***

Thrissur ATM heist: TN police shoot at suspects, 1 dead

THRISSUR, 27 SEPT

An unidentified gang targeted three ATMs in this district and looted around Rs 70 lakh in the early hours of Friday, police said. One member of a gang suspected to have been involved in the heist was gunned down by the Tamil Nadu police on Friday when they brazenly attempted to flee after ramming into cars and two wheelers at Kumarapalayam in this district, a senior police official said. Another person who sustained injuries in the police firing has been admitted to a government hospital. Two policemen r who were said to have been injured when the gang reportedly attacked them upon being cornered, have been admitted to the government hospital.***—PTI***

PHOTO: PTI

Langurs to secure Kanpur India and B'desh Test

LUCKNOW, 27 SEPT

To keep the monkey menace at the Green Park stadium in Kanpur for the second Test between India and Bangladesh Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association (UPCA have hired langurs and their handlers to guard the people against food-grabbing monkeys. Monkeys tend to snatch food and other items such as mobile phones from the spectators, arriving at the venue to watch a cricket match. Although security guards are also present at the venue, the presence of Langurs was deemed necessary to add another layer of protection. It was reported that the stadium's C block isn't safe for accommodating people. Hence, it was closed for spectators ahead of the start of play on Day 1. The stand behind the boundary rope cameras are kept was covered by a black cloth in order to prevent monkeys from spotting eatables. ***—Agencies***

HC order to shut Youtube channel unwarranted: SC

Held over an interview, Youtuber was given conditional bail

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

The Supreme Court on Friday termed as "unwarranted and extraneous" the Madras High Court directive to YouTuber Felix Jerald to close down his channel as one of the bail conditions.

The top court also confirmed its 6 September order granting bail to Jerald sans the condition asking him to close down his YouTube channel "RedPix 24x7".

"The bail order of 6 September is hereby confirmed," a bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Manoj Misra said after taking note of the submissions of senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for the YouTuber.

The bench noted that following its earlier order Jerald has been already released on bail.

Jerald was arrested for hosting an "objectionable" interview of another YouTuber Savukku Shankar on his YouTube channel. Shankar was also arrested.

In the interview, Shankar made certain comments against Madras High Court judges and women police officers of the state. The High Court, which granted bail to both YouTubers, had asked Jerald to close down his channel as one of the conditions.

Sankaranarayanan had said such an interview should not have been shown.

The Youtuber made certain comments against Madras High Court judges and women police officers of the state ***PHOTO: PTI***

- On 25 September, the top court ordered "forthwith" release of co-accused and YouTuber Shankar who was detained just after his release under the Tamil Nadu Goondas Act

On 25 September, the top court ordered "forthwith" release of co-accused and YouTuber Shankar who was detained just after his release under the Tamil Nadu Goondas Act.

Shankar,48, was arrested by the Coimbatore Police from southern Theni on 4 May for alleged derogatory statements about women police personnel and some Madras High Court judges in an interview on the YouTube channel "RedPix 24x7" on 30 April, which led to several FIRs against him.

Besides these cases, the YouTuber also faces a case lodged by the Theni Police for the alleged possession of 'ganja'.

—PTI

Alleged 'threat nexus' in WB med colleges serious: HC

KOLKATA, 27 SEPT

Observing that allegations of a threat nexus in medical colleges in West Bengal are serious if even one or more of these are correct, the Calcutta High Court has directed the state government to file an affidavit responding to the accusations made in a PIL.

The petitioners alleged that they have come across multiple reports regarding the existence of a threat culture in state government-run medical colleges and hospitals, sale of answer keys for examinations, bribery, corruption, sexual harassment and abuse of medical students and junior doctors. The court also noted that the petitioners, a doctor and a social worker, mentioned a "north Bengal lobby", which according to them exerts pressure for transfers and promotions. Noting that several allegations have been made in the public interest litigation (PIL), a division bench presided by Chief Justice TS Sivagnanam observed, "If any one or more are found to be correct, the matter is a very serious issue." *—PTI*

MOLLYWOOD RAPE ROW

Cops intensify search for rape accused Sidhique

T'PURAM, 27 SEPT

With the whereabouts unknown of Malayalam actor Sidhique, who was denied anticipatory bail by the Kerala High Court in a rape case, the police have intensified their search for him by publishing a lookout notice in newspapers seeking information about him.

The lookout notice in the newspapers states that 65-year-old Sidhique is an accused in a rape-cum-criminal intimidation case and anyone with information about him should contact the Commissioner of Police of Thiruvananthapuram city or the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Thiruvanantha puram Range.

The notice, which carries a photo of the actor, also contains his physical description -- 5.7 feet tall and well-built.

Sidhique has moved the Supreme Court seeking anticipatory bail in the rape case after the Kerala High Court on Tuesday had denied him relief.

The High Court had said that in view of the seriousness of the accusations he was facing, his custodial interrogation was inevitable for proper investigation of the crime.

It had further said that since Sidhique's defence was "a total denial of the incident", his potency test was yet to be conducted and there being a "reasonable apprehension" that he may intimidate witnesses and tamper with evidence, "it was not a fit case to exercise the discretionary powers of the court" to grant him the relief. In his anticipatory bail plea, he claimed that she had repeatedly, for the past five years, made unsubstantiated and false claims of sexual misbehaviour and 'verbal sexual offers' by him in a theatre in 2016. *—PTI*

Actor Sidhique ***PHOTO: PTI***

DU polls: Drive launched to remove defacement

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

An exercise was launched on Friday to remove all posters and banners put up by student organisations across Delhi University north campus for DUSU poll campaign.

The action comes a day after the Delhi High Court halted the counting of votes of Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections till all the defacement material, including posters, hoarding and graffiti, is removed and public property is restored.

Speaking to PTI on the matter, Rajesh Singh, the returning officer for the elections, said, "The majority of the hoardings, posters, and banners violating the rules have been removed. The process to remove any other such posters is underway. We called a meeting of all the candidates contesting the elections and directed them to take down these materials," Singh said.

- The action comes a day after the Delhi High Court halted the counting of votes of DU polls till all the defacement material, including posters, hoarding and graffiti, is removed

Meanwhile, voting for DUSU polls is underway amid high security on Friday in the north and south campuses of the university.

Students who were on the campus to cast their votes said the campus is much cleaner now than in previous days.

"Large banners and posters were almost entirely removed overnight," a female student said, adding that the once-cluttered roads, crowded with oversized campaign posters, now appear clean. *—PTI*

JOY IN THE MOMENT

An elderly man and a child share an umbrella to shield themselves during rain, in Chandigarh, on Friday. IMD issued an orange alert predicting heavy rainfall in Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Bihar and West Bengal ***PHOTO: PTI***

HC QUASHES CBI NOD FOR INDRANI TO TRAVEL ABROAD

MUMBAI, 27 SEPT

The Bombay High Court on Friday quashed an order passed by a special court granting permission to former media executive Indrani Mukerjea, accused of killing her daughter Sheena Bora, to travel abroad.

A single bench of Justice Shyam Chandak allowed a petition by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against the special court order on the grounds that Mukerjea was facing trial for a serious offence and that there was a possibility of her fleeing the country.

"The petition is allowed. The impugned order is set aside," the court said. A special CBI court had on 19 July allowed Mukerjea to travel once to Europe (Spain and UK) for ten days between intermittent periods over the next three months. Indrani Mukerjea was arrested in August 2015 after the murder of Sheena Bora came to light. She walked out of jail in May 2022 on being granted bail by the Supreme Court. Bora, 24, was allegedly strangled to death in a car by Indrani Mukerjea, her then-driver Shyamvar Rai and former husband Sanjeev Khanna in April 2012 in Mumbai. Her body was then burnt in a forest in the neighbouring Raigad district, as per the prosecution. *—PTI*

Indrani Mukerjea ***PHOTO: PTI***

UP man held for stone pelting at train passengers

PRAYAGRAJ, 27 SEPT

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) have jointly arrested a man who allegedly threw stones at the Seemanchal Express to get passengers near the doors to drop their phones, officials said on Friday.

Mohammed Shameem alias Golu on Monday allegedly threw stones at passengers of the train near the Yamuna Bridge, injuring a person, they said. GRP Superintendent Abhishek Yadav said Shameem was arrested on Thursday. "The accused was apprehended on the banks of the Gaughat railway line. During interrogation, Shameem admitted to throwing stones at passengers sitting near the train doors, with the intention of causing them to drop their mobile phones," he said.

In another incident, the Jaynagar-New Delhi Swatantrata Senani Express has been pelted with stones by unidentified people near Samastipur railway station in Bihar. No person was injured in the incident but it caused damage to window panes of three coaches, including the pantry car, they said. *—PTI*

6,000 special trains for festive season

NEW DELH, 27 SEPT

As the festive season approaches, Indian Railways has decided to run nearly 6,000 special trains to help more than one crore passengers get home for Durga Puja, Diwali and Chhath festivals.

Besides, additional general coaches have been added to 108 trains and 12,500 coaches have been sanctioned to take care of the extra rush witnessed during festivals, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told a select group of journalists here. Vaishnaw said a total of 5,975 special trains have been notified so far for this year's festival season. Durga Puja begins on 9 October, Diwali will be celebrated on 31 October while Chhath Puja will take place on 7 and 8 November this year.

PHOTO: PTI

Tripura to give 2 kg flour to ration card holders for free

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Friday said the state government will give 2 kg of flour, 1 kg of sugar, and 500 grams of semolina (suji) for free to 9.83 lakh ration cardholders ahead of the Durga Puja festival.

Previously, the government used to sell these items at subsidised rates but this time it will be given to the ration card holders for free, an official said.

Food and Civil Supplies Minister Sushanta Chowdhury said, "The government will spend Rs 6.84 crore to provide these items free of cost before Durga Puja. Consumers can start receiving them at fair price shops from the first week of October." *—PTI*

Class 2 student sacrificed for school's prosperity in Delhi; 5 held

AGRA, 27 SEPT

A student of class 2 was killed in an alleged "sacrificial ritual" performed by the owners of his school DL Public school in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras to make it more "prosperous", police said on Friday.

Besides the owner and director of the school, the principal and two teachers were also arrested for their alleged involvement in the killing on Monday, they said.

Police said the postmortem report of the class two student revealed that he was strangled.

DL Public School owner Jasodhan Singh, who is said to believe in 'tantrik rituals', asked his son Dinesh Baghel, the director of the school, to sacrifice a child for the "prosperity" of the school and his family.

Principal Laxman Singh and two teachers -- Ramprakash Solanki and Veerpal Singh -- have also been held by police.

The postmortem report revealed that the child was strangled ***PHOTO: ANI***

"On 23 September, the student was abducted from the school's hostel by teacher Ramprakash Solanki, Dinesh Baghel and school owner Jasodhan Singh. Jasodhan Singh believes in 'tantra' practice and asked his son to sacrifice a child for the prosperity of school and his family," he said.

They took the student to a secluded place for the sacrifice but the student woke up and began crying, after which he was strangulated.

Police further said that the accused told the child's parents that he was not well as was being taken to a hospital in Baghel's car. Family members of the child, however, stopped the car and informed police about Kritarth's death, police said. *—PTI*

PADMA SHRI RECIPIENT

English poet and former cop Keki N Daruwalla dies at 87

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

Poet, writer and former IPS officer Keki N Daruwalla, whose magic with words gained him national and international repute, has died at a Delhi hospital after prolonged illness and a spell of pneumonia. He was 87.

Daruwalla, one of India's best known writers in English, died on Thursday night.

"He had a stroke a year ago and hadn't been keeping well since. There were stroke related complications. But it wasn't a stroke this time, he basically died of pneumonia," his daughter Anaheita Kapadia told PTI.

Daruwalla, also known for his short stories, is survived by Anaheita and his other daughter Rookvain, sons-in-law and four grandchildren.

Keki N Daruwalla ***PHOTO: FB***

The last rites will be performed on Friday evening at Parsi Aramgah near Khan Market.

Born in Lahore in 1937, Daruwalla studied at Government College in Ludhiana. He joined the Indian Police Services (Uttar Pradesh cadre) in 1958 and rose through the ranks to becoming special assistant on international affairs to then prime minister Charan Singh.

He later joined the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) where he was promoted to the rank of secretary, R&AW.

Daruwalla's first book of poetry, "Under Orion", was published in 1970. Two years later, he received the Uttar Pradesh State Award for his second book, "Apparition in April".

He also won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1984 for his poetry collection, "The Keeper of the Dead", which he returned in October 2015 in protest against Sahitya Akademi's failure "to speak out against ideological collectives that have used physical violence against authors".

Daruwalla was also awarded the Padma Shri in 2014. *—PTI*

WORLD TOURISM DAY

Students ride chariots on World Tourism Day, near Victoria Memorial, in Kolkata, Friday. World Tourism Day is celebrated annually to honour tourism's significance and the global social, cultural, and economic effects it has ***PHOTO: PTI***

Can' 'Kavach' protect rlys from derailment?

Allaying concerns over rail safety, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has asserted that implementation of the 'Kavach' automatic train protection system was being carried out on a war footing alongside rigorous quality checks for tracks and signals.

From ultrasound tests to installation of fog safety devices, the latest technology tools and solutions are being used across the network, while special training is also being imparted to drivers and other personnel for the Kavach system, the minister told a select group of journalists here.

The comments assume significance in the wake of a spate of derailment cases reported in the recent past, which the opposition parties have used to attack the government.

Kavach is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system and a highly technology-intensive system that requires safety certification of the highest order.

Among other things, Kavach aids the loco pilot in train running within specified speed limits by automatic application of brakes in case the driver fails to do so and also helps the train run safely during inclement weather.

The Kavach system implementation involves an elaborate setup comprising telecom towers and laying of optical fibre along the rail network, installation of RFID tags throughout the track length, data centres at stations, devices fitted to tracks, onto the trains and even below engines.

With the designing and testing phases over, including through trials and pilots, the government is aiming to cover the entire network of over one lakh kilometres and more than 7,000 stations with Kavach during the next few years.

Vaishnaw said tenders had already been issued for fitting 10,000 locomotives and 9,600 kilometres of track length with Kavach.

Kavach is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system and a highly technology-intensive system that requires safety certification of the highest order ***PHOTO: PTI***

Besides, courses are being conducted at IRISET (Indian Railways Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications) for training of personnel.

Vaishnaw also explained in detail various safety measures being followed by the Railways, including more than 97,000 inspections done by officials so far this fiscal, alongside 2,500 kilometres of track renewal.

Besides, ultrasound tests are being done for the entire network and 1,86,000 (1.86 lakh) kilometres of tracks and 11.66 lakh welds have been tested with ultrasound machines since April, he added.

New ultrasound machines have also been introduced, a large number of railway bridges rehabilitated, and hundreds of flyovers and underpasses constructed, the minister said.

Vaishnaw further said that 5,300 fog safety devices had been installed, quality checks of track fittings carried out by the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), and hardship and risk allowance of trackmen increased by 25 per cent.

The Kavach system has also been developed by the RDSO, and it can apply brakes automatically in case of an emergency when a train driver fails to act in time.

Earlier this week, Vaishnaw reviewed a trial of the Kavach system between Sawai Madhopur and Indargarh stations in the West Central Railway zone.

He travelled in the engine of a Kavach-fitted train, which, while speeding at 130 kilometres per hour, stopped 50 metres before a red signal on its own without any manual interference with the braking function by the loco pilot.

According to Railway officials present during the trial, Kavach was tested for seven different emergency situations and it worked as expected in all of them.

After the trial, Vaishnaw had said that in another five to six years, the latest version of Kavach would be installed across all rail networks in the country.

Work is underway to operationalise the system on the 3,000-kilometre Mumbai-Delhi and Delhi-Kolkata routes and the installation work on another 6,000 kilometres will be started soon.

The first field trials of Kavach on passenger trains were started in February 2016 and, based on the experience and independent safety assessment of the system by a third party, three firms were approved in 2018-19 for the supply of Kavach.

While new trains in the future may come fitted with the Kavach system, it needs to be installed on the existing fleet of locomotives.

Indian Railways had introduced an Anti-Collision Device system in 2006 but it was abandoned in 2012 after being found to be faulty. *—PTI*

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

SALAR سالار

Unemployment hits its highest in 45 yrs, but why?

Kavitha Reddy

The economic issues are most vital for us and it is of the highest importance that we should fight our biggest enemies; poverty, unemployment'', according to ex-Prime Minister Lal Bahadur.

Shastri back then spoke about poverty and unemployment being the biggest enemies of the nation.

As we look back today, India is experiencing the highest unemployment in 45 years and is feeding over 80 cr people under the National Food Security Act. The challenges of poverty and unemployment is largely linked to access (geography) and low wages, even as we keep hearing the debates on unemployability and skill-less education system, the core of the problem today seems the inability to allow creation of jobs seamlessly in both organised and unorganised sector.

Ministry of Labour & Employment data says that 93 per cent of the workforce is in the unorganised sector, with little or access to any social security benefits or job security,

India also has 18.3 per cent unpaid workers, and 57.3 per cent of total workforce are self-employed.

Even as the jobs in the agriculture sector is shrinking the workforce in unorganized sector is not reducing, the argument of unorganized sector employment eventually moving to organized sector seems unrealistic in today's time.

Both union and state governments are slowly acknowledging the fact that organised sector employment is are not growing faster than expected, the slump in the manufacturing and the new age economy is not creating many organised sector jobs. No major legislation or policy is enacted to address the issues of the unorganised sector workforce who have been long deprived of basic benefits like social security, health insurance, housing, financial inclusion etc.

The Covid crisis was an eye opener, it exposed how the unorganized sector workforce is extremely venerable, has serious workplace challenges and extremely low wages that is unmonitored by any authority, also how these 437 million unorganized sector workers who contribute 50 per cent to the GDP continue to be voiceless.

In a tactical move on the eve of Independence Day the Labour Department, Govt of Karnataka announced ID cards and basic social security scheme for unorganized sector workforce across 23 different services that could cover over 6 million people.

Labour Minister Santosh Lad acknowledged that, "a lot more must be done and issuing ID card is just first step to officially count the workforce that has been deprived of employment benefits, and as and when the unorganised sector board is able to generate revenues in form of cess from various departments through strategic policy changes, we can improve the working conditions, provide social security, healthcare and most importantly work towards a financial inclusion framework."

The new age platform economy is creating more jobs in the unorganized space, with over 15-16 million workers gig economy powered by the digital delivery platforms is fast growing. Due to the very nature of the business gig workers have little access to employment benefits that the organised sector workforce enjoys. Even as states like

Karnataka are pushing for a legislation for gig workers, there is a palpable resistance from several digital delivery platforms to work towards creating welfare schemes for the gig workers.

Like many other countries India is rapidly moving towards employment generation and economic growth is the unorganised sector, and to address the workforce & workplace challenges a comprehensive policy & legal framework is needed. Registration in e-Shram, PMSYM and other portals with extensive publicity, issuing cards is becoming another PR exercise, and the workforce in the unorganized sector who have been subjected to various registrations over years feel that these multiple registrations are not making any difference in their lives. So, what is needed is a massive outreach and a robust process to identify, validate, count, connect and to provide benefits, training, welfare, and healthcare schemes on a war footing basis.

Currently the claim of economic growth and job creation is like 'building faster cars and getting a ticket for speeding on a bad road', it throws open the fact that we are setting wrong priorities, over regulating, under prepared and are failing the youth of the country.

State and union government's intervention is needed to bring an organised policy to assess the composition and count of the unorganized sector workforce. Higher budgetary allocation for social security, healthcare, financial inclusion, incubation centers and upskilling programs to enhance skills with guaranteed opportunities in domestic or international job market can fix India's unemployment crisis in the mid-term and long- term.

— The author is Member ,Karnataka Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board

India has 18.3% unpaid workers, and 57.3% of total workforce are self-employed ***PHOTO: ANI***

Europe's AI bosses sound warning on soaring compliance costs

Oleg Stavitsky doesn't mince his words when asked where he thinks Europe's artificial intelligence (AI) sector is headed.

"Ultimately, the EU will fall behind even more," the CEO of AI-powered music app Endel tells DW. "Regulations will stifle local development and 'Big Tech' will eventually find its way to the EU. Regulations and bureaucracy are strangling innovation in the EU. It's that simple."

For now, regulation appears to be keeping some parts of US "Big Tech" out. Recent moves by tech giants such as Apple and Meta to withhold some of their most advanced AI models from the European market have raised questions about current conditions for AI-centered firms in the bloc.

Apple announced in June it would delay the release of three new AI-driven features to EU users due to uncertainty over how the EU's Digital Markets Act (DMA) could affect them.

Around the same time, Meta said it would not be launching its advanced Llama AI model in the EU, citing "the unpredictable nature of the European regulatory environment."

It's not the first time leading US AI developers have aired strong reservations about the EU's regulatory approach. Last year, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said of the European Commission's then-forthcoming AI Act: "We will try to comply, but if we can't comply we will cease operating."

A 'tsunami of legislation'

Over the last few years, the EU has introduced a raft of legislation aimed at regulating the digital economy in the member states.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force in 2018, the Digital Markets Act in 2022, and the Data Act in 2023 while in 2024, two more major pieces of legislation take effect: the Artificial Intelligence Act and the Cyber Resilience Act.

Many in Europe's tech sector say the increasingly strict rules on everything from competition to data are restricting the development of the continent's digital startups.

"The biggest issue that we see is that the smaller companies are facing a tsunami of what we call overregulation," said Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl, director-general of DigitalEurope, which represents over 45,000 firms in the continent's technology sector.

She says the rising cost of regulatory compliance is prompting many European companies to simply leave the European market. Many EU unicorns — that's a startup valued at over US$1 billion (€894 million) which is privately owned and not listed on a stock market¬ — have left Europe for the US in the last few years.

US tech giants such as Apple and Meta have locked the European market out of some of their most advanced AI models ***PHOTO: DWNEWS***

"These fast-running, super valuable companies simply choose to move out of Europe because of the compliance cost of the market," she told DW.

Ceding more ground

The lure of the US is something Asparuh Koev, the CEO of Bulgarian logistics firm Transmetrics, knows all about. The firm uses AI models to optimize transport planning for companies. Koev helped set it up in 2013 and it now has a 45-member staff and a turnover of around €2 million ($2.24 million) per year.

He opted to keep Transmetrics in Bulgaria but he is concerned that Europe is ultimately going to cede more and more ground to US and China on artificial intelligence.

"If we don't have access to the latest foundational models, and we have to deal with the older generation models, that eventually means that the American companies could be better suited to addressing our market, which is a concern," he says.

Jarek Kutylowski, founder and CEO of Germany's DeepL translation company, says there may be advantages for AI firms being more regulated than their US rivals but it's not clear if it is enough to make a significant difference.

Another issue: the funding gap

While it has been suggested that US firms holding back their most advanced AI models could allow European startups to step into the breach, many dismiss the idea out of hand.

"I think that's a 'make-believe' scenario," says Voica. "I used to work for Meta. Meta, Google, Microsoft, these companies have large compliance teams, large legal teams. And if they can't make this work, how will a company like ours or smaller, realistically?"

Stavitsky and Koev say the lack of funding in Europe compared to the US makes such a scenario even more improbable.

"More EU-based companies will move to the US, raise capital there, and build products for a much more open and free market," says Stavitsky.

Koev points out that none of the top venture capital firms or AI firms in the world come from Europe. "There is nothing," he says. "We are completely unequipped. This thing caught us by surprise. In Europe, we are very good at adopting innovation once it has been seriously proven, but we are not early adopters."

Some have pointed to Mario Draghi's report on European competitiveness as a possible sign that Europe will finally get its act together on AI and other critical technology.

The former European Central Bank boss and Italian prime minister's report called for a new industrial strategy for Europe and urged the EU to ramp up investment by €800 billion a year to compete with the US and China.

"It was nice to see that Draghi recognizes that if we want to win the game of security, innovation, and prosperity in Europe, we cannot just lean back and say 'oh, everything is dangerous' and put millions of millions of compliance costs on the companies," says Bonefeld-Dahl.

"A company in Europe now has more compliance costs than it has in Research & Development. And it is totally, totally wrong." *—DW News*

Helene weakens to Category 1 hurricane in Florida

CRAWFORDVILLE, 27 SEPT

Hurricane Helene weakened to a Category 1 hurricane on early Friday killing at least 3 people with max-imum sustained winds of 75 mph (120 kph), according to the National Hurricane Center. The storm travelled north from Florida to Georgia and was about 160km from Augusta and 65km from Macon moving at about 48 kph, the hurricane centre in Miami said in a 4 am update. The storm made landfall in northwestern Florida as a Category 4 storm as forecasters warned the enormous system could create a "nightmare" storm surge and bring dangerous winds and rain across much of the southeastern US. There were at least three storm-related deaths. Helene prompted hurricane and flash flood warnings extending far beyond the coast up into northern Georgia. *—PTI*

1 dead as migrant boat capsizes near Greece

ATHENS, 27 SEPT

A dinghy carrying migrants toward the eastern Greek island of Kos capsized in rough weather overnight, leaving one person dead and 15 others rescued, while dozens more people were rescued from a yacht in southern Greece, the coast guard said Friday. It said the dinghy was carrying 16 people when it capsized southeast of Kos near the Turkish coast. A coast guard vessel rescued 15 people and pulled an unresponsive woman from the water. Two of the survivors were treated at a hospital. Separately, another coastguard vessel rescued 78 people from a wooden boat in distress travelling south of the far-southern Greek island of Gavdos. There were no reports of any injuries or missing people, and the boat's passengers were being transported to the Island of Crete.*—PTI*

Sayeeda Warsi quits Conservatives over 'Far Right' tilt

LONDON, 27 SEPT

Britain's first Muslim cabinet minister has resigned from the opposition Conservative Party, saying it has moved too far to the right. Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, who sits in the House of Lords formerly served as co-chair of the Conservatives. Warsi's decision came amid controversy over her response to the recent acquittal of pro-Palestinian protester Marieha Hussain, who faced racial abuse charges after carrying a placard depicting then-Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Suella Braverman. Prosecutors considered the placard to be a racist slur, interpreting its meaning as "you may be brown on the outside, but you are white on the inside".*—Al Jazeeta*

Dubai millionaire buys island for wife to wear bikini

DUBAI, 27 SEPT

A Dubai-based housewife claims her millionaire husband bought a private island so she can feel safe on the beach. Soudi Al Nadak, 26, shared an Instagram video of the private island with the caption: "POV: You wanted to wear a bikini so your millionaire husband bought you an island." She has been married to HIM for three years, Soudi Al Nadak, 26, posted a video of the island on Instagram, which has now gar-nered millions of views. According to Soudi, "This has been his best investment yet," as she shared the video. The clip begins with Soudi and her husband, Jamal Al Nadak, whom she met during her studies in Dubai. It then cuts to Jamal aboard an aeroplane before showcasing the private island in Asia that he purchased for her. *—Agencies*

At UN, Bibi vows won't stop until Hezbollah wiped out

He said Israel will not tolerate any rockets from Lebanon

BEIRUT, 27 SEPT

His leadership strained by conflicts on two fronts, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told world leaders at the United Nations on Friday that his nation will "continue degrading Hezbollah" until it achieves its goals along the Lebanon border, further dimming hopes for an internationally backed cease-fire to halt the spiral into an all-out regional war. He said his government would no longer tolerate daily rocket fire from the area.

"Just imagine if terrorists turned El Paso and San Diego into ghost towns ... How long would the American government tolerate that?" he said, shaking his fist in emphasis. "Yet Israel has been tolerating this intolerable situation for almost a year. Well, I've come here today to say: Enough is enough."

He said he travelled to the United Nations to refute the untruths he had heard from other leaders on the same rostrum earlier in the week.

"I didn't intend to come here this year. My country is at war fighting for its life," Netanyahu said. "But after I heard the lies and slanders levelled at my country by many of the speakers at this podium, I decided to come here and set the record straight."

He insisted that Israel wanted peace but said of Iran: "If you strike us, we will strike you." He once again blamed Iran for being behind many of the problems in the region.

Israel's campaign in Gaza has killed more than 41,500 Palestinians and wounded more than 96,000 othersHealth Ministry.

"This war can come to an end now. All that has to happen is for Hamas to surrender, lay down its arms and release all the hostages," Netanyahu said. "But if they don't – if they don't – we will fight until we achieve total victory. Total victory. There is no substitute for it. "

He said Israeli forces have destroyed "90 per cent " of Hamas' rockets and killed or captured half of its forces.

In recent days, Israel has turned its attention to the border with Lebanon, where it is targeting Hezbollah and has inflicted civilian casualties as well. *—PTI*

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hold signs as he addresses the 79th session of UNGA on Friday **PHOTO: PTI**

ISRAEL STRIKE ON GAZA SCHOOL KILLS 11, 22 HURT

DEIR AL-BALAH, 27 SEPT

An Israeli airstrike hit a school sheltering thousands of displaced Palestinians in northern Gaza on Thurs-day, killing at least 11 people and wounding 22, including women and children, the territory's Health Min-istry said.

The Israeli military confirmed it struck the school in the Jabalia refugee camp, saying it was targeting Hamas militants inside who were planning attacks on Israeli troops. The claim couldn't be independently confirmed.

Footage from the al-Falouja School showed rescue workers rushing casualties out of the school com-pound amid widespread debris and crowds of people.

One video showed men wrapping a mangled, sev-ered torso in a plastic sheet and putting body parts into a cooler. *—PTI*

HEADS RULING PARTY

Ex-defence minister Ishiba set to become Japan's new PM

TOKYO, 27 SEPT

PHOTO: PTI

Japan's ruling party on Friday picked former defence minister Shigeru Ishiba as leader, setting him up to become prime minister next week.

The party leadership win is a ticket to the top job because the Liberal Democratic Party's ruling coalition currently controls the parliament.

Considered a defence policy expert, Ishiba has proposed an Asian version of the NATO military alliance and a more equal Japan-US security alliance. Ishiba is a supporter of Taiwan's democracy. He calls for an establishment of a disaster management agency in one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

Ishiba beat out Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi, a staunch conservative who was running to become the country's first female prime minister.

A record nine lawmakers, including two women, ran in a vote decided by LDP members of parliament and about 1 million dues-paying party members. That's only 1 per cent of the country's eligible voters.

Outgoing prime minister Fumio Kishida has been dogged by party corruption scandals, and the LDP wanted a fresh leader in hopes of regaining public trust before a likely general election.

Some experts believe that party turmoil could mean that Japan will return to an era similar to the early 2000s, which saw "revolving door" leadership changes and political instability.

A succession of short-lived governments hurts Japanese prime ministers' ability to set up long-term poli-cy goals or develop trusted relations with other leaders.

On Tuesday, Kishida and his Cabinet ministers will resign. Ishiba, after being formally elected in a parlia-mentary vote, will then form a new Cabinet later in the day. *—PTI*

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump meet in New York on Friday **PHOTO: PTI**

Trump, Zelenskyy meet as tensions rise over war

NEW YORK, 27 SEPT

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy arrived for a meeting with Donald Trump as public tensions have been rising between the two over Ukraine's defence against Russia's invasion.

"I think we have a common view that the war in Ukraine has to be stopped and Putin can't win," Zelenskyy said referring to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

After arriving together at a conference room on Friday, Trump said "the fact that we're even together today is a very good sign."

The visit is taking place at Trump Tower in New York, a day after Vice President Kamala Harris, Trump's Democratic opponent, met with the Ukrainian leader and expressed unwavering support.

The meeting is highly anticipated and comes as Election Day nears, with Trump and Harris taking sharply different positions on backing Ukraine in the third year of its war with Russia.

Trump has in recent days praised Russia's historic military victories and insisted the U.S. needs "to get out" and end its involvement with Ukraine.

Friday's meeting almost wasn't scheduled despite Zelenskyy's office saying something had been planned during the Ukrainian leader's visit to the UN General Assembly, during which he is making his endgame pitch to allies.

In an interview with The New Yorker, Zelenskyy implied Trump does not understand and oversimplifies the conflict. He said Trump's running mate JD Vance was "too radical" and had essentially advocated for Ukraine to "make a sacrifice" by "giving up its territories."

Trump ripped Zelenskyy and Ukraine on two separate occasions this week. *—PTI*

BELGIAN PM BLASTS POPE FOR SEX ABUSE COVER-UP

BRUSSELS, 27 SEPT

Belgium's Prime Minister blasted Pope Francis for the Catholic Church's horrific legacy of clerical sex abuse and cover-ups, demanding "concrete steps" to come clean with the past and put victims' interests ahead those of the institution in a blistering welcome at the start of Francis' visit on Friday.

The speech by Prime Minister Alexander De Croo was one of the most pointed ever directed at the pope during a foreign trip, where the genteel dictates of diplomatic protocol usually keeps outrage out of the public speeches. But even King Philippe had strong words for Francis, demanding the church work "in-cessantly" to atone for the crimes and help victims heal. *—PTI*

China's newest nuclear submarine sank in dock: US

WASHINGTON, 27 SEPT

Satellite imagery showed that China's newest nuclear-powered attack submarine sank alongside a pier while under construction, a senior US defence official said Thursday.

The sinking of China's first Zhou-class submarine represents a setback for Beijing as it continues to build out the world's largest navy. Beijing has become increasingly assertive in pursuing its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea, which is crucial to international trade.

Meanwhile, China faces longtime territorial disputes involving others in the region including Brunei, Ma-laysia, the Phillippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. The United States has sought to strength ties to its allies in the region and regularly sails through those waters in operations it says maintains the freedom of navi-gation for vessels there, angering Beijing.

The submarine likely sank between May and June, when satellite images showed cranes that would be necessary to lift it off the bottom of the river, said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to provide details about the submarine loss. *—PTI*

A satellite image from Maxar shows the Zhou class sub sitting at the pier on 10 March **PHOTO COURTESY: MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES**

Sudan war worsens amid cholera outbreak

CAIRO, 27 SEPT

PHOTO: X@AJENGLISH

New fighting rocked Sudan's capital on Thursday with airstrikes and drone attacks in and around Khartoum amid a worsening cholera outbreak, officials said.

Sudan's military launched an operation in the early hours of Thursday aimed at taking control of areas in the capital that had been in the hands of its enemy, the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, or RSF.

Sudanese media reported increased military movements and airstrikes in the districts of Khartoum and Omdurman, the heaviest in the capital area in months. Mohamed Ibrahim, the health ministry's spokesperson in Khartoum, said in a statement that four civil-ians were killed and 14 others wounded in the latest fighting in the Karrari district of Omdurman, a city next to the Sudanese capital, Khartoum. The country plunged into chaos in April 2023, when long-simmering tensions between its military and the Rapid Support Forces paramilitary broke out into street battles in Khartoum. At a General Assembly whose doomsday feeling was fuelled by three major wars along with inaction on global warming, the fighting and humanitarian catastrophe in Sudan took third place after the killing in the Middle East and Ukraine. *—PTI*

NEVER FOLLOWED 'INDIA OUT' AGENDA: MUIZZU

MALE, 27 SEPT

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu has denied having an "India Out" agenda, asserting that the island nation had a "serious problem" with the presence of foreign military on its soil.

Muizzu, who is in the US to attend the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, made the remarks on Thursday while responding to a question at Princeton University's "Dean's Leadership Se-ries".

"Maldives faced a serious problem with foreign military presence on this soil," he said . "The people of Maldives do not want a single foreign soldier in the country," Muizzu said. The ties between India and the Maldives came under severe strain since November last year when Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, took charge as Maldivian president. *—PTI*

15 killed after landslide in Indonesia's illegal gold mine

PADANG, 27 SEPT

A landslide triggered by torrential rains struck an unauthorised gold mining operation on Indonesia's Sumatra island, killing at least 15 people, officials said Friday. Dozens others were reported missing.

Villagers were digging Thursday for grains of gold in the remote Solok district of West Sumatra province when mud plunged down the surrounding hills and buried them.

At least 25 people were still buried and three people were pulled out alive with injuries by rescuers.

Search efforts in the worst-affected area, near Nagari Sungai Abu village, were hampered by mudslides that covered much of the area, blackouts and lack of telecommunications.

Informal mining operations are common in Indonesia, providing a tenuous livelihood to thousands who labour in conditions with a high risk of serious injury or death. *—PTI*

At least 25 people were still buried and three people were pulled out alive with injuries in Indonesia Sumatra island **PHOTO: X@RTAUZBEK**

LEGACY OF ICONIC ROLES

'Harry Potter' fame actor Maggie Smith dies

LONDON, 27 SEPT

Maggie Smith, the masterful, scene-stealing actor who won an Oscar for 'The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie' in 1969 and gained new fans in the 21st century as the dowager Countess of Grantham in 'Downton Abbey' and Professor Minerva McGonagall in the Harry Potter films, died Friday. She was 89.

Smith's sons, Chris Larkin and Toby Stephens, said in a statement that Smith died early Friday in a London hospital.

Smith was frequently rated the preeminent British female performer of a generation that included Vanessa Redgrave and Judi Dench, with a clutch of Academy Award nominations and a shelf full of acting trophies.

She remained in demand even in her later years, despite her lament that "when you get into the granny era, you're lucky to get anything."

'Jean Brodie', in which she played a dangerously charismatic Edinburgh schoolteacher, brought her the Academy Award for best actress, and the British Academy Film Award (BAFTA) as well in 1969. Smith added a supporting actress Oscar for 'California Suite' in 1978, Golden Globes for 'California Suite' and 'Room with a View', and BAFTAs for lead actress in 'A Private Function' in 1984, 'A Room with a View' in 1986, and 'The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne' in 1988.

Her work in 2012 netted three Golden Globe nominations for the globally successful 'Downton Abbey' TV series and the films 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel' and 'Quartet'.

Margaret Natalie Smith was born in Ilford, on the eastern edge of London, on 28 December, 1934.

In the Harry Potter films, Dame Maggie played the acerbic Professor Minerva McGonagall, famous for her pointed witch's hat and stern manner with the young wizards at Hogwarts. *—PTI*

In the 'Harry Potter' films, Dame Maggie played the acerbic Professor Minerva McGonagall **PHOTO: WARNER BROS**

Worker dies after boss refuses her sick leave

BANGKOK, 27 SEPT

A factory employee collapsed at work and later died on 17 Sept, the day after her manager allegedly re-fused to allow her another day's sick leave unless she first submitted a new medical certificate.

The worker, a 30-year-old woman from Sukhothai province identified only as May, was an employee at an electronics plant in Bang Pu Industrial Estate in Muang district of Samut Prakan province.

According to a friend, May had first taken leave with a medical certificate from 5 to 9 September, after she was diagnosed with an inflamed large intestine. She spent four days in hospital.

After she left the hospital, May told her friend that her condition had not improved. She subsequently decided to take two more days off.

On 12 September, May asked the manager for sick leave on 13 September, saying her condition had de-teriorated even further. The manager said she had to come in to work and submit another medical cer-tificate first, since she had already taken many sick days off.

Fearing she might lose her job, May went to work despite still feeling ill. She collapsed after working for just 20 minutes, her friend said. May was rushed to a hospital and sent immediately for emergency surgery. She was pronounced dead. *—Courtesy*

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

India's forex reserves hit new high of $692.29B

MUMBAI, 27 SEPT

India's forex reserves jumped by USD 2.838 billion to a new all-time high of USD 692.296 billion for the week ended September 20, the RBI said on Friday.

The overall kitty had increased by USD 223 million to a new high of USD 689.458 billion for the previous reporting week. For the week ended September 20, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by USD 2.057 billion to USD 605.686 billion, the data released on Friday showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units. *—PTI*

Rupee falls 4 paise to settle at 83.70 against US dollar

MUMBAI, 27 SEPT

The rupee declined 4 paise to settle at 83.70 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday amid subdued domestic equity markets and increased month-end demand for the American currency. However, sliding crude prices in the international market and renewed foreign fund inflows supported the local unit and restricted the fall, forex dealers said. At the inter-bank foreign exchange, the local unit opened at 83.64 and moved between the high of 83.62 and the low of 83.71 during the session. The local unit finally settled at 83.70 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a loss of 4 paise from its previous close. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.06 per cent to 100.30. *—PTI*

Cisco inaugurates facility in Chennai, to create 1,200 jobs

CHENNAI, 27 SEPT

Cisco on Friday inaugurated its first manufacturing facility in India at Chennai, setting into motion a multi-year investment plan, as the network equipment maker pledged its commitment to building production capabilities in the country. With this strategic investment, the company will generate more than USD 1.3 billion annually in combined exports and domestic production, it said adding that the facility is expected to create 1,200 jobs in Tamil Nadu. Cisco has partnered with Flex to build and scale the manufacturing facility in Chennai, which will initially focus on Cisco's Network Convergence System (NCS) 540 Series of routers. The Chennai-based manufacturing facility was inaugurated by Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, along with Chuck Robbins; as well as state and local government officials. *—PTI*

GST Council sets up panel on compensation cess

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has set up a 10-member GoM, chaired by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, to decide on the taxation of luxury, sin and demerit goods once the compensation cess ends in March 2026. The Group of Ministers (GoM), which includes members from Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, will submit its report to the Council by 31 December. Currently, goods and services tax (GST) is a four-tier tax structure with slabs at 5, 12, 18, and 28 per cent. However, as per GST law, tax of up to 40 per cent can be imposed on goods and services. The GST Council would also have to decide whether it would continue with the compensation cess till March 2026. *—PTI*

Market draws back from lifetime highs on profit taking

HDFC, ICICI, Adani Ports, Airtel among major laggards

MUMBAI, 27 SEPT

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty retracted from lifetime highs to settle lower on Friday due to profit-taking in frontline stocks HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank.

The BSE Sensex declined 264.27 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at 85,571.85. During the day, it climbed 142.13 points or 0.16 per cent to reach a new record intra-day peak of 85,978.25.

The NSE Nifty dipped 37.10 points or 0.14 per cent to 26,178.95 after rising 61.3 points or 0.23 per cent to an all-time intra-day high of 26,277.35 during the day.

From the 30 Sensex firms, Power Grid, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Adani Ports and UltraTech Cement were among the laggards.

Sun Pharma, Reliance Industries, Titan, HCL Technologies and Bajaj Finserv were among the biggest gainers.

In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai, and Hong Kong settled sharply higher while Seoul ended lower.

European markets were trading in the green. The US markets ended in positive territory on Thursday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers on Thursday as they bought equities worth Rs 629.96 crore, according to exchange data. Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.03 per cent to USD 71.58 a barrel.

The BSE benchmark jumped 666.25 points or 0.78 per cent to settle at an all-time high of 85,836.12 on Thursday.

During the day, it reached a record intra-day peak of 85,930.43, surging 760.56 points or 0.89 per cent.

Nifty climbed 211.90 points or 0.81 per cent to close at a record high of 26,216.05. During the day, it soared 246.75 points or 0.94 per cent to hit a fresh intra-day lifetime peak of 26,250.90. *—PTI*

Centre plans to take ₹6.61L cr from mkt

Out of gross market borrowing of Rs 14.01 lakh crore budgeted for 2024-25, Rs 6.61 lakh crore or 47.2 per cent is planned to be borrowed in the second half, the Ministry of Finance said in a statement. These borrowings would be done through the issuance of dated securities, including Rs 20,000 crore of Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs). The gross market borrowing of Rs 6.61 lakh crore shall be completed through 21 weekly auctions. *—ANI*

FOR VIZAG PLANT

Govt mulling RINL-SAIL merger: Sources

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

The government is considering merger of RINL with another state-owned steel company SAIL as one of the options to ensure survival of RINL's plant and resolve the financial and operational issues being faced by the Andhra Pradesh-based steel maker, sources said.

To provide capital for continuity of operations at the RINL's steel plant, plans like sale of land parcel to NMDC and bank loans are also being worked out, they told PTI.

The DFS secretary, steel secretary and top officials of public sector lender SBI also held a meeting recently over the RINL issue. SBI has significant loan exposure to RINL.

"The government wants to provide a permanent solution to the issue. One of the options being discussed is the merger of RINL with SAIL," the sources said.

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL), under the Ministry of Steel, owns and operates a 7.5 million tonnes plant at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. It holds the distinction of being India's first shore-based integrated steel plant.

SAIL (Steel Authority of India Limited) also comes under the steel ministry.

Sources further said that arranging capital for operations are also being considered, besides other measures like having talks with lenders for financial assistance and monetising assets through sale of a land parcel of 1,500-2,000 acre to NMDC for a pellet plant. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

SILVER JUMPS ₹500

Gold hits another record for 3rd day, settles at ₹78,300 per 10 gms

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

Gold prices advanced to yet another record high -- for the third straight day on Friday -- rising Rs 50 in the national capital on the back of continued buying by jewellers.

Continuing a firm momentum for the third straight session, gold prices rose Rs 50 to hit a fresh high of Rs 78,300 per 10 grams, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

On Thursday, the precious metal had finished at Rs 78,250 per 10 grams.

Silver also jumped Rs 500 to Rs 94,500 per kg on fresh offtake by industrial units and coin makers. The metal had closed at Rs 94,000 per kg in the previous trade.

PHOTO: PTI

Traders said increased buying by local jewellers to meet festive and wedding season demand and a firm trend in the overseas markets mainly lifted gold prices to this year's highest level.

Further, the US Federal Reserve's optimism that they will maintain an aggressive pace of interest rate cuts this year also boosted the bullion prices, they added.

Meanwhile, in the futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for October delivery, declined Rs 181, or 0.24 per cent, to Rs 75,206 per 10 grams.

Silver contracts for December delivery fell Rs 142, or 0.15 per cent, to trade at Rs 92,522 per kilogram on the bourses.

In the international markets, Comex gold is trading 0.29 per cent lower at USD 2,687.20 per ounce. *—PTI*

NCLAT grants 2 weeks for Supertech's settlement proposal

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

The Insolvency appellate tribunal NCLAT has granted two weeks more time to debt-ridden realty firm Supertech Township Projects suspended director Ram Kishore Arora to circulate the settlement proposal to both its lenders and home buyers.

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) also suggested the realty firm facing insolvency proceedings to publish the settlement proposal on its website so that it can be accessed by all concerned stakeholders.

The bench further said, "On the next date, we will consider whether the proposal submitted deserves to be accepted or not after hearing counsel for the lenders as well as the homebuyers who have filed applications in the appeal. Any objection to the proposal may also be filed by all."

NCLAT direction came on Thursday after the counsel representing Punjab and Sind Bank said it has not received any proposal on behalf of Ram Kishore Arora, promoters of Supertech Township Projects Ltd. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

NIPL int'l to develop UPI-like platform

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has entered into a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Digital Transformation (MDT) of Trinidad and Tobago to develop a real-time payments platform similar to India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

This collaboration marks a significant milestone, making Trinidad and Tobago the first Caribbean nation to adopt the globally renowned UPI, NPCI said in a statement.

This builds on the strong, longstanding bilateral ties between the two countries, it said.

This strategic partnership aims to empower Trinidad and Tobago to establish a reliable and efficient real-time payments platform for both person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions, expanding digital payments in the country and fostering financial inclusion, it said.

By leveraging technology and experiences from India's UPI, the partnership seeks to assist Trinidad and Tobago in modernising its financial ecosystem, it said. UPI has emerged as a transformative force in India's financial landscape, registering nearly 15 billion transactions. *—PTI*

CLEARED ALL GST DUES: SPICEJET

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

Debt-ridden SpiceJet on Friday said it has cleared all its Goods and Services Tax (GST) dues. The airline, which raised Rs 3,000 crore through the Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) route last week, had GST dues worth over Rs 145 crore.

In a release, the carrier said it has cleared all the GST dues.

As per the preliminary placement document related to Rs 3,000 crore fund raise, the airline had GST dues of Rs 145.1 crore as on 15 September.

After receiving the fresh capital of Rs 3,000 crore, SpiceJet has also cleared salary dues of employees for July and August as well part of pending June salaries.

Shares of the company rose around 1 per cent to Rs 62.39 apiece in the morning trade on BSE. —PTI

'Competition for Google's online ad dollars misread'

ALEXANDRIA, 27 SEPT

Federal regulators who say Google holds an illegal monopoly over the technology that matches online advertisers to publishers are vastly underestimating the competition the tech giant faces, an expert hired by Google testified Thursday.

Mark Israel, an economist who prepared an expert report on Google's behalf, said the government's claims that Google holds a monopoly over advertising technology are improperly focused on a narrow market the government defines as "open web display advertising," essentially the rectangular ads that appear on the top and along the right hand side of a web page when a consumer browses the web on a desktop computer.

But the government's case fails to account for a variety of competition that occurs beyond those rectangular boxes, Israel said. In the real world, advertisers have dramatically shifted where they spend money to social media companies like Facebook and TikTok, and online retailers like Amazon.

When you account for all online display advertising, not just the narrow segment defined by the government's case, Google gets just 10 per cent of the US market share as of 2022, he said. That's down from roughly 15 per cent a decade ago. *—PTI*

Experience Tomorrow Today: Meta Unveils Orion AR Glasses

Straight out of a sci-fi fantasy world, Mark Zuckerberg unveiled Meta Orion, augmented reality prototype glasses.

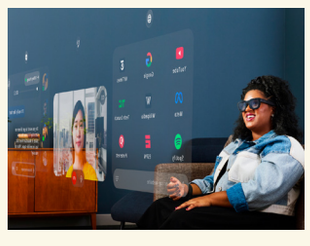
Developed by: Meta | **Unveiled on: 25 September at Meta Connect 2024**

WHAT ARE AR GLASSES?

Augmented reality (AR) glasses are wearable devices that overlay digital information onto the real world, allowing users to interact with both physical and virtual elements simultaneously.

FEATURES AND UNIQUE ASPECTS

- **High-Definition Display** Crystal-clear visuals for immersive gaming experiences, enhancing detail in graphics.
- **Advanced Spatial Awareness-** Real-time mapping of the environment, enabling accurate placement of digital objects in physical spaces.
- **Gesture Control** Users can navigate menus or interact with apps simply by waving their hands, making operations intuitive.
- **Voice Command Functionality** Users can launch applications or control settings with voice prompts, allowing for hands-free operation while multitasking.
- **Collaborative Features** Multiple users can share a virtual workspace, enabling real-time collaboration on projects, regardless of location.
- **Contextual Information Overlay** For navigation, users can see directions overlaid on their environment, making it easier to find their way in unfamiliar place.
- **Hologram Technology** Enables users to visualise and interact with 3D objects and holograms of people in real environment, experiences like meetings and gaming.



COMPARISON WITH APPLE VISION PRO

	META ORION	APPLE VISION PRO
WEIGHT	100 GMS	600-650 GMS
LENS	SILICON CARBIDE	CATADIOPTRIC GLASS
CONTROLLERS	EYES & FINGER VIA NEURAL INTERFACE	HAND & EYE TRACKING
BATTERY LIFE	2 HOURS	2 HOURS
PORTABILITY	CAN FIT IN YOUR POCKET	BULKY & EXTERNAL WIRE NEEDED FOR PROCESSING
PRICING	$10,000 (RS 8, 37,049)	$3,499 (RS 2,92,897)

INDIA VS BANGLADESH 2ND TEST

Akash and Ashwin keep India ahead on rain-hit Day 1

Bangladeshi fan hospitalised after falling ill

KANPUR, 27 SEPT

Pacer Akash Deep was impressive in a probing opening spell while Ravichandran Ashwin removed the dangerous Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto before rain halted India's progress in the second Test on the opening day, here Friday.

Given the forecast, it was expected to be a weather-hit contest from the beginning. Only 35 overs could be bowled after Rohit Sharma invited Bangladesh to bat in overcast conditions as the visitors struggled to 107 for three after a brief resistance through Shanto (31).

Mominul Haque (40 batting) and veteran Mushfiqur Rahim (6) were at the crease when the heavens opened up.Overnight rain had delayed the start of the match by an hour. Heavy overcast conditions influenced India's team selection as the hosts kept all three pacers from the Chennai Test, which meant that local boy Kuldeep Yadav missed out on another Test match. Akash (2/14 in 10 overs), who bowled

Pacer Akash Deep PHOTO: PTI

round the wicket to the left-handers, consistently hit the good length areas and got the ball to either shape away or come in with the angle.

Shanto (57 balls, 4x6), though, batted with positive intent, if not combative, to ensure Bangladesh doesn't lose way from the start.As expected, the initial bounce and seam movement had openers Zakir Hasan and Shadman Islam playing in a circumspect manner. Islam (24) worked the ball around but an overcautious Hasan (0) simply couldn't get going.

Jasprit Bumrah had the openers squared up as the away-going deliveries kept landing in Rishab Pant's gloves.Mohammed Siraj induced edges that flew to the slip cordon but none carried to the fielders'.

Shadman hit a couple of boundaries off Bumrah in a single over, the first was a flick off the pads, and the second was an uppish drive.On the other side, Hasan consumed 23 dot balls and was yet to open his account.

—PTI

Bangladeshi fan hospitalised

A well-known Bangladeshi cricket fan, who dresses as a tiger, had to be hospitalised after "falling ill" while watching the second Test against India at the Green Park Stadium here, an incident that he first indicated to be a case of physical assault.Self-proclaimed super fan Robi, who is a regular in his team's games and is often seen on camera waving the Bangladeshi flag

Robi PHOTO: PTI

Dwayne Bravo retires from all forms of cricket

NEW DELHI, 27 SEPT

World Cup-winning West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket and will join IPL side Kolkata Knight Riders as a mentor.

The 40-year-old thus replaces Gautam Gambhir, who left the role to take over as India's head coach earlier this year.

Bravo's last season of the Caribbean Premier League was cut short due to an injury that he sustained earlier this week.

"Today is the day I say goodbye to the game that has given me everything," he wrote on Instagram on Thursday."Twenty-one years as a professional cricketer - it's been an incredible journey, filled with many highs and a few lows. Most importantly, I was able to live my dream because I gave you 100 at every step."

"As much as I'd love to continue this relationship, it's time to face reality."

Bravo had stepped away from international cricket in 2021 while concluding his IPL career last year. He has since dabbled with coaching, working with the Chennai Super Kings and the Afghanistan men's team.

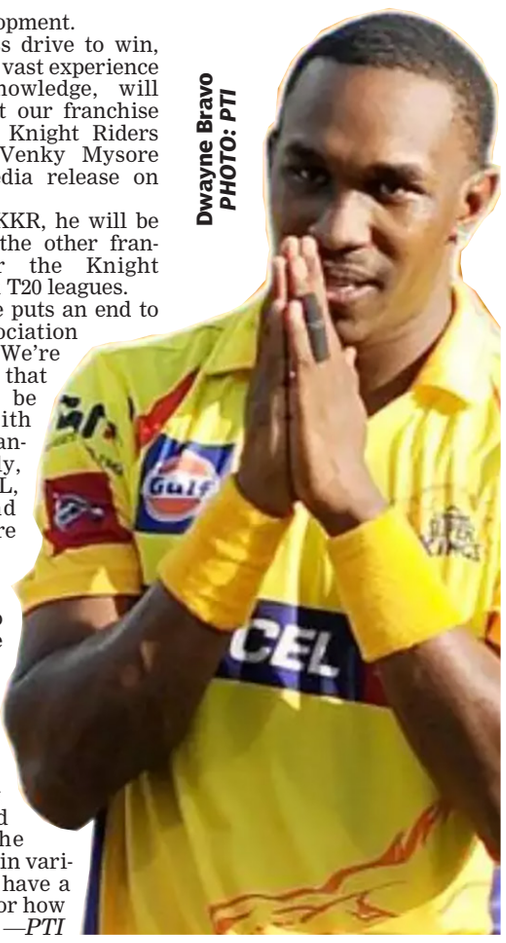
"DJ Bravo joining us is an exciting development.

His relentless drive to win, along with his vast experience and deep knowledge, will greatly benefit our franchise and players," Knight Riders Group CEO Venky Mysore said in a media release on Friday.

Apart from KKR, he will be in charge of the other franchises under the Knight Riders label in T20 leagues.

The new role puts an end to his long association with CSK. "We're also pleased that Bravo will be involved with our other franchises globally, including CPL, MLC, and ILT20," Mysore said.

Talking about his role in KKR, Bravo said: "I've been part of the Trinbago Knight Riders for the last 10 years in the CPL. Having played for and against the Knight Riders in various leagues, I have a lot of respect for how they operate. *—PTI*



Dwayne Bravo PHOTO: PTI

Modest start for Pranavi and Tvesa in France

DEAUVILLE, 27 SEP

Indian golfers Pranavi Urs and Tvesa Malik began with identical cards of 1-over 72 at the wet and windy opening round of the Lacoste Open de France. They were tied for T-35 on a day when play was also suspended in between due to weather. Three players chasing their maiden Ladies European Tour (LET) win share the lead. England's Bel Wardle, home favorite Emma Grechi, and the in-form Kirsten Rudgeley all fired cards of 5-under 66 at Golf Barriere in Deauville to top the leaderboard. Pranavi, a multiple winner on her home Tour, WPG Tour who is coming off a Top-10 finish in Spain last week, had four birdies and five bogeys.*—PTI*

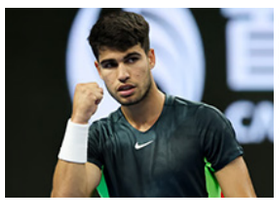


PHOTO: TWITTER

Alcaraz, Daniil Medvedev progress in Beijing

BEIJING, 27 SEPT

The No. 3-ranked Carlos Alcaraz withstood a heavy barrage from big-serving Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard to win 6-4, 6-4 in the China Open first round on Friday. Daniil Medvedev safely navigated a tricky first outing, 6-3, 6-4 against French veteran Gael Monfils. Second-seeded Alcaraz took both of his break point opportunities, despite the No. 51-ranked Frenchman regularly sending down 140 mph (225 kph) serves.Mpetshi Perricard won 83% of the points behind his first serve.*—PTI*

Kamindu Mendis in action for Sri Lanka vs New Zealand PHOTO: PTI

Mendis equals Bradman as SL commands NZ

GALLE, 27 SEPT

Kamindu Mendis matched Don Bradman as the joint third fastest player to 1,000 test runs as Sri Lanka tightened its grip on New Zealand in the second test on Friday. Sri Lanka declared at 602-5 in its first innings and left New Zealand reeling at 22-2 by stumps.

With three full days left to play, the Kiwis face a mountainous challenge to avoid a second defeat.Kamindu reached the 1,000-run milestone in just his 13th test innings, sharing the honor with Bradman, who achieved the feat in 1930 against England at Headingley.

Only England's Herbert Sutcliffe and West Indies great Everton Weekes reached the landmark in fewer innings, doing so in 12 knocks.In a career that has blossomed rapidly, Kamindu notched his fifth century before lunch. Later, with audacious flair, he brought up his 1,000th run by stepping down the track to Rachin Ravindra and smashing a towering six straight back over the bowler's head.Stumps New Zealand 22 for 2 (Williamson 6*, Ajaz 0*, Jayasuriya 1-3) trail Sri Lanka 602 for 5 dec (Kamindu 182*, Chandimal 116, Kusal 106*, Mathews 88, Phillips 3-141) by 580 runs. *—PTI*

EUROPA LEAGUE

Tottenham overcomes early red card to post 3-0 win

LONDON, 27 SEPT

Tottenham marked its return to European competition after one year by overcoming an early red card to beat Qarabag 3-0 in the revamped Europa League.

Defender Radu Dragusin was sent off in the eighth minute for bringing down Juninho to prevent the forward from going in alone on goal. But the hosts opened the scoring just four minutes later.

Brennan Johnson's angled shot was his third goal in three games. Pape Sarr doubled the advantage early in the second half off a corner kick and Dominic Solanke finished it off on a rebound in the 68th.

"The red card was not ideal, we started sloppily but the reaction afterward was good," Spurs manager Ange Postecoglou told TNT Sports. "We wanted to press high, even with ten men."

Johnson also scored in a 3-1 win over Brentford in the Premier League and had a

Tottenham marked its return to European competition after one year PHOTO: @SPURSOFFICIAL

stoppage-time winner in a 2-1 victory over second-division Coventry in the English League Cup three days earlier.

Tural Bayramov wasted a golden opportunity to score from the spot when the Azerbaijan visitors were 2-0 down.

Travel disruptions forced the game to start 35 minutes late.

Roma blows lead Roma allowed a late goal and settled for a 1-1 draw with Athletic Bilbao following the Italian club's turbulent recent stretch that included firing coach Daniele De Rossi.

Aitor Paredes headed in the equalizer in the 85th minute to offset Artem Dovbyk's first-half goal.

Roma beat Udinese 3-0 in Serie A on Sunday in the first game under new coach Ivan Juric.

—PTI

Aleem Dar PHOTO: PTI

Aleem Dar to quit next year

ISLAMABAD, 27 SEPT

Three-time world cricket umpire of the year Aleem Dar will step down in 2025 after the Pakistan domestic season.

The 56-year-old Dar served on the ICC elite panel of umpires from 2003-23. He is on the Pakistan elite panel and is among four Pakistani umpires on the ICC international panel, making him eligible to officiate in one-day internationals and Twenty20s.

"All great journeys must eventually come to an end, and the time has come for me to focus fully on my social and charity work," Dar said on Friday. "My hospital project and other initiatives are very close to my heart and require my full devotion and attention." *—PTI*

Man City's Rodri undergoes knee surgery

MANCHESTER, 27 SEPT

Manchester City midfielder Rodri will miss the rest of the season after undergoing ACL surgery on Friday.

The Spain international also injured his meniscus.

"This season is over (for him). We got the worst (news possible) but it is what it is," City manager Pep Guardiola said. "We are there to support him in a good recovery, step by step, and move forward."

Rodri injured his right knee on Sunday in the first half of City's 2-2 draw against Arsenal. City hoped the injury would not be as bad as first feared, but tests this week confirmed ACL damage, which can take from six months to a year to recover from. It meant the four-time defending English Premier League champion will be without one of its most influential players for the remainder of this campaign.

"We don't have a similar player, but the other players all together can replace what Rodri has given since he arrived to us," Guardiola said. "We have to do it as a team and we have to find a way to play a lot of months without a n important player for us." Rodri is among the favorites to win the Ballon d'Or for the best player in the world.

His importance to Guardiola's team was underlined last term when City lost four of nine games without the inspirational midfielder in all competitions. By comparison, City lost just one of 50 games with him in the team. "He is the best holding midfielder in the world. I would say he is a potential Ballon d'Or winner," Guardiola said last week.Rodri warned last week that top players could go on strike because of the number of games they are being asked to play. *—PTI*

Cameron Green rendered doubtful for India Tests

LONDON, 27 SEPT

Australian all-rounder Cameron Green's participation in the upcoming marquee five-match Test series against fierce rivals India was on Friday thrown into doubt after a back injury ruled him out of the ongoing tour of England.

Green, 25, has been withdrawn from the final two matches of Australia's one-day international series against England after reporting soreness following the third game at Chester-le-Street on Wednesday. He was pulled out of Friday's delayed fourth ODI at Lord's due to the injury. The batting all-rounder, who is returning home to begin his rehabilitation ahead

Cameron Green PHOTO: PTI

of the Border-Gavaskar Test series, beginning in November, now faces a race to be fit for the much-anticipated assignment at home against a side that is leading the World Test Championship (WTC) chart at the moment. Scans performed on the cricketer revealed a back injury and a timeline for his possible return to action. *—PTI*

B'luru will take on Bagan today

BENGALURU, 27 SEPT

Unbeaten so far in the league, Bengaluru FC and Mohun Bagan Super Giant will lock horns in a blockbuster ISL clash here on Saturday, with the two heavyweights of Indian club football looking to consolidate their positions in the pecking order.

Bengaluru FC won both their games against East Bengal and Hyderabad FC while Mohun Bagan Super Giant, after sharing the spoils with Mumbai City FC in their opener, returned to winning ways in their last outing against NorthEast United.

BFC are placed second in the standings currently.

—PTI

No-confidence motion against AITA President Jain

KANPUR, 27 SEPT

In an unprecedented move, eight state tennis associations, affiliated with AITA, have proposed to move a no-confidence motion against President Anil Jain and an Extra Ordinary General Meeting (EGM) has been called on September 28 in New Delhi for the purpose. Interestingly, the All India Tennis Association (AITA) has called the EGM on the day it is scheduled to hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) and conduct elections, the result of which can't be declared and are to be submitted to the Delhi High Court in a sealed envelop. Jain, who is a BJP Rajya Sabha MP, is facing the charges of "loading the association with his personal 'entitled' expenses by traveling with his family abroad several times."*—PTI*

INJURY IS FINE NOW

Next big target is 2025 WC: Neeraj

SONEPAT, 27 SEPT

Promising to be 100 percent fit for the new season, India's two-time Olympic medal-winning javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra on Friday said a podium finish in the 2025 Tokyo World Championships is the next big target on his mind going forward.

The 26-year-old is back in the country after winding up his season with a second-place finish at the Diamond League finale in Brussels.

This was after he became the first Indian track-and-field athlete to claim successive Olympic medals by adding a silver in Paris to the momentous gold clinched in Tokyo.

"The season is over now. The biggest target for next year is the World Championship, and we will begin preparations for that now. The Olympics are always on our minds, but we have four years for that," Neeraj told PTI Videos on the sidelines of a conference on 'Mission Olympics 2036' organized at the Sports University of Haryana here.

The world championship is scheduled to be held from September 13 to 21 next year.

Chopra battled an adductor muscle niggle throughout the year and it also affected his performance at both the Olympics and the DL finale, where he also competed with a fractured left hand.

He had spoken about consulting doctors at the end of the season to decide whether to go for surgery to fix the problem.

Asked about his fitness, Chopra played down concerns and also stated that he will look to improve his technique.

The Haryana-lad is trained by renowned German biomechanics expert Klaus Bartonietz.

"It was an injury-plagued year but injury is fine now, I will be 100 percent fit for the new season," he asserted.

"Technical issues are also there but we will work on them. I will look to improve my technique. I do like to train in India but when competitions start, I prefer to train abroad," he said. Reflecting on India's Olympic performance, which yielded six medals but no gold this time, Chopra pointed out that the country could have got more as reflected by the half-a-dozen fourth-place finishes."There were a lot of fourth positions. (But) this time, we had a very good performance in the Paralympics and won several medals. "In the coming times, we expect strong performances in both the Olympics and the Paralympics," said Chopra.Chopra has been working hard to hit the 90m mark but hasn't managed so far despite coming close. *—PTI*

Acciona Open: Saddening start for Shubhankar

MADRID, 27 SEPT

Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma endured a disappointing start as he carded three-over 74 in the opening round of the 2024 Acciona Open de España presented by Madrid.

Sharma, who opened the round with a double bogey and a bogey on his first two holes on the back nine of the Club de Campo Villa de Madrid, dropped one more shot on the Par-4 15th to be 4-over.

He did not drop anymore and picked one sole birdie on the Par-3 third for a 74 on a tough scoring day. He will now need a good low second round to cut. Spaniard Angel Hidalgo delighted the home fans with a six-under-par 65 for a two-shot first-round lead.

The big-hitting Hidalgo demolished the front nine in just 30 strokes and maintained his score despite a late wobble. His nearest challengers were

Shubhankar Sharma PHOTO: PTI

Julien Guerrier, Sepp Straka, and Sam Bairstow after rounds of 67, with three-time champion Jon Rahm in the group a further shot back.

Rahm winner of his home open in 2018, 2019, and 2022, the latter two at this venue sandwiched birdies at the fourth, eighth, and 13th with bogeys at the third and 16th.

The ten-time DP World Tour winner finished in style with a 27-foot birdie putt at the penultimate hole before a perfect drive.

—PTI